

THE

1509/99.

JOCKEY CLUB;

J. J. Vandeleur

S K E T C H

OF THE

MANNERS OF THE AGE.

I'll speak of them as they are,
Nothing extenuate, nor set down ought in malice. SHAKESP.

— DICERE VERUM
QUID VETAT? —

THE SECOND EDITION.

D U B L I N :

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CONTENTS.

	Page
THE P—e, of W—s	I
The D—e of Y—k	6
D—e of B—d	8
Mr. D—t—n	10
D—e of G—t—n	10
D—e of Q—nsb—ry	11
E—l G—n—r	12
L—d B—g—e	13
Old D—k V—n—n	14
General S—th	15
The Young G—n—r—l	16
Sir F. M—l—n—x	16
Sir H. F—ft—n	18
E—l C—m—t	ibid.
Lord F—l—y	19
Mr. Ch—les Wy—d—m	ibid.
Earl of E—gr—t	20
G—ge H—g—r	21
Col. F—	ibid.
Mr. H—re	24
Mr. S—r—d—n	25
	Mr.

C O N T E N T S.

Mr. F—x	29
Earl of D—by	32
Mr. B—ck	33
Black D—	35
Earl of B—m—e	38
Sir John L—de	ibid.
Earl of U—p—r O—f—ry	40
Mr. P—t—n	41
Sir C B—y	42
Mr. W—ft—ll	44
Sir C. D—v—rs	45
Mr. N—th—y	46
Sir F. S—d—sh	47
Col. T—n	ibid.
P—e B—th—by	48
L—d G. H. C—v—d—sh	49
Sir W—y A—t—n	51
D—ke of N—k	53
L—d V—c—t St—m—t	55
Mr. H—y V—n	58
Sir F. E—n	60
Mr. P—tt	ibid.
Sir F. P—le	65
D—e of R—d	66
Mr. H. B—nb—y	68
E—l of H—r—t—n	69
Sir C. B—pf—de	71
Mr. T. O—l—w	72
E—l of C—t—f—d	74
Conclusion	78

P R E-

P R E F A C E.

IF it be more grateful to an ingenuous mind to celebrate the praises of humanity, it is no less necessary to expose the vices that deform it. In enumerating the excellences of men, we present a model to imitate; in detecting their depravity, we hold out an example to deter. In either case, the attempt is equally useful and commendable. To hold the mirror up to Nature, the shew Vice its own image, is the design of this publication; it will be styled severe, but there are cases, where severity is justice, and it is much to be feared, that the persons in question are too incorrigible to be chastened by any lecture either of gentle or harsh reproof: however, if the public gain information or instruction from it, the author's wishes will be partly accomplished.

— Quid melius aut majus Reipublicæ facere possumus,
quam si populos erudimus atque docemus? *

We are conscious that in this effort, we shall incur the charge of ill-nature and misanthropy, that it will be said we write from discontent and disappointment, and that the most illiberal motives will be applied to us; but while the author's pen has in no instance whatever transgressed the bounds of truth, while the characters concerned, are (he fears) far beyond the reach of his censure or his praise, and since it must be allowed that their general deportment renders them the fittest subjects of popular animadversion, the principles which

* Cicero.

dictate

P R E F A C E.

dictate the succeeding pages must be wholly immaterial.

To attack the helpless and unfortunate, under any circumstances, is base and inhuman; but surely, when persons of the most exalted rank, pre-eminently distinguished by genius and talents, in full enjoyment of all the blessings of fortune, abuse these advantages, it cannot be criminal to bring them forward on the public stage, and we have felt no reluctance in developing the vile conduct of men, who derive all their consequence from rank or fortune, none from merit.

The poor man, uneducated and inexperienced, instigated by penury and every species of misery, to the perpetration of crime, is detected, abandoned to his fate, and left to perish neglected and unpitied. No generous advocate comes forth a volunteer in his defence, Why then should the haughty unfeeling nobleman, whose example perhaps operated to the destruction of the other, and who has no plea to urge in extenuation of his profligacy, escape the lash of rebuke? We hold it far more honourable to exercise the province of free and merited satire, than to pursue the line of mean and fulsome adulation; as it is more congenial with a liberal spirit, to be beholden to popular favour, than to draw advantages from individual bounty, by a sacrifice of personal independence. The author is too well acquainted with the merciful disposition of those whom he has thus brought forward, to be ignorant, that were he discovered, he should draw down on his head the whole collected battery of their resentment, and that the iron arm of oppression would be employed to crush him. He must therefore, however unwillingly, conceal himself under the veil of secrecy. Truth ought not to be less powerful from.

P R E F A C E.

from the necessity that demands this secrecy, and as we have before observed, our purpose will be in a great degree accomplished, if we can succeed, by taking dust out of the eyes of the multitude, in lessening that aristocratic influence which so much pains are now taking to perpetuate; and to that end, what method so probable, as by exhibiting to public view, the corruption and filthy debauchery of those, who are thus wickedly attempting to establish an eternal and destructive authority over them. Popular esteem should be attached only to purity of principles, or an union of virtue and talents: when superior genius servies only to render moral depravity more notorious, general indignation should rise in proportion. It is to be feared however, that a revolution in government, can alone bring about a revolution in morals; while it continues the custom to annex such servile awe and prostituted reverence to those who are virtually the most undeserving of it, and whose sole merit consists in their birth or titles, the latter (as we shall prove) commonly lavished on the vilest part of the human race; while such an unnatural system is suffered to exist, what happy result can be expected? A bad tree can never yield good fruit. The blessings of the B——sh C——t——t-n do not prevent the existence of the most enormous and crying evils, and if it would be unwise to annihilate it altogether, in the name of reason let it be speedily and liberally reformed.

Independent of party attachment, unwarped by prejudice, and guided only by the strictest impartiality, with a desire of turning the bias of popular admiration, the author submits the following characters to public inspection, and if the general merits of the publication, were only adequate to the truths which it contains, he should entertain no doubt of it being received with universal success and approbation.

2 0 A U G 9



THE
JOCKEY CLUB,
OR A
SKEETCH
OF THE
MANNERS OF THE AGE.

THE P—E OF W—s.

THE most absurd and tyrannical prejudices are they which originate in custom, because the most difficult to conquer. Antiquity seems, as it were, to consecrate error, and men chuse rather to follow the old beaten path, than reason and humanity explode, than pursue new lights, which emanate from that divine essence. The duties annexed to this elevated station are clear and precise; if performed, the act is its best reward. National gratitude repays the deed, and self-approbation exalts the sentiment. If neglected, poor indeed is the claim to public affection, that consists in rank alone. We hope the ancient system is nearly at an end, and that mankind will soon be convinced, how disgraceful it is to pay homage to a person, merely on account of his descent, while they frequently withhold it from those whose virtues and talents should extort it from them. The gewgaw of royal parade is calculated to entrap the admiration of the ignorant. The interest of courtiers, and other minions of the same description, naturally enlists them on the same side; but the man of independent spirit, the philosopher, the man of sensibility sees through a brighter mirror, and judges from moral, not from adventitious causes.

The Proverbs of Solomon, and the Maxims of the Duc de la Rochefoucault, are equally founded in wisdom

and truth. These trite sayings, on the above ground, are highly respectable. There is an old French adage, "Dis moi ce que tu hantes, se te dirai qui tu es," which, in English, signifies, Tell me the company you keep, and I'll tell you what you are. If so; how are we to judge of this R—I P—g—e; or what is the prospect for this country on a future contingency?—Sorry are we to observe, that the prospect is dreary indeed, or what else could render the present reign tolerable?—A reign, where every abuse of true government has been committed,—where the system of favouritism, corruption, and of war, has been carried to the utmost extent—where the reputed domestic virtues of the sovereign (however exemplary in a private station, are unprofitable in the great scale of public affairs,) are the sole compensation for all the above evils,—for the fruits of an inordinate selfish avarice extracted from the very entrails of the people; and for a load of taxes, that must eventually either rouse or destroy them! We are less sensible to present burthens, when the future announces no just hope of alleviation. Let us enquire who are the chosen companions and confidential intimates of the P—e of W—s? They are the very *lees* of society: creatures, with whom a person of morality, or even common decency could not associate. The B—ys, Sir J. L—de, and Mr. — H—r. If a man of the most depraved, the vilest cast, were, from a vicious sympathy, to chuse his company, it were impossible for his choice to fix any where else. Where the H—r to the C—n, on whom the happiness of so many millions is hereafter to depend, affords such testimony of his taste and attachments, the people cannot expect any benefit or relief from that quarter, and it becomes them to think seriously for themselves. That period must arrive.

The affability and address of this P—e are described as extremely engaging: certainly his whole exterior deportment is far different from what we have been accustomed to witness in the rest of his family, and these advantages he does not fail to apply to the advancement of his own immediate views. The Lady with whom he is connected, and the nature of which connection, is likely one day to become a matter of most serious national discussion, is reported to have involved herself in the utmost pecuniary embarrassments on his account, and his behaviour

to



to her, we have some reason to believe, has not been of the most grateful, delicate, or honourable nature.

The only clue to guide our judgment, in regard to future expectation, must be from the line of conduct hitherto pursued, and from thence what are we to expect? When the mistaken liberality of the nation cheerfully acquiesced in paying a sum of money, granted for the purpose of discharging certain debts, it was under the sanction of an implied engagement, that every useless expence was to be lopped off, the establishment diminished, and a systematic plan of œconomy adopted. To encourage this hope, pending the business, dult was cast into the eyes of the public. The most flattering assurances were generally held out: race-horses, coach-horses, hounds, &c. &c. were publicly sold; nor could it have been imagined that, in so young a mind, hypocrisy had taken such deep root: but what was the scene which a very few months disclosed? No sooner had parliament voted this money, than decency was set at defiance; public opinion scorned, the turf establishment revived in a more ruinous style than ever, the wide field of dissipation and extravagance enlarged, fresh debts contracted to an enormous amount, which it is neither in his own, or the nations power to discharge, and strong doubts entertained that the money voted by parliament was not applied to the purpose for which it was granted. Had a private individual acted in like manner, he would have become the out-cast of his family, and the whole world had abandoned him: but in the case before us, where the example is ten thousand times more contagious, such a flagrant breach of faith, such base ingratitude, has hardly received the slightest animadversion. Ought we to shew more indulgence to one, whose peculiar duty it is to respect popular favour, and to act in such a manner as to deserve it, and from whose exalted station the public have a right to expect lessons of morality and virtue, than to one whose deviation from its rules, only produces partial effects, and can be of no detriment to the community at large? How unjust it is, what an inversion of every fair honourable principle, to suffer the dignity of rank to afford a veil to moral depravity. To protect genius, to reward merit, to relieve distress, is what we look for from a munificent Prince, and when the nation is called on to liquidate

immense debts, without one single instance of this kind on record, to justify such a perversion of their money, it is perfidy to the public, and not a warranted liberality towards the Prince, for parliament to do so. From parliaments however, constituted as they are at present, it were vain to expect redress. The soi disant representatives of the commons of England, are merely the nominees of a haughty unfeeling aristocracy. Lord North and Mr. Burke may avail themselves of their false credit, to abuse the people, telling them that the present mode of representation is adequate to the correction of every evil. So it may be with them, but the attempt to impose such error on unprejudiced, enlightened minds is preposterous. The fact is this: All reform of government in England, as we have beheld it elsewhere, must begin and end with the people; nor is it the wretched farce of royalty, that the puppets are now acting, that will long delude them. The system is erroneous, and the example of France we trust in G-d, will be successful, and that Englishmen may be inspired by it. When the shoe pinches, it is thrown aside. Court sycophants, whether at St. James's, or Carlton-House, it signifies not, are equally interested in the success of the piece. To this circumstance it is owing, that we behold the harmony which actually prevails in every branch of the Roy-l Fam-ly. It is delightful to consider how the principle of common interest, unites even those who are *disunited* by particular discordancies; and how little differences seem to be wholly lost in the immensity of more momentous concerns. Certain connections must be odious to German pride, and no cordial attachment can ever subsist, but union is the grand point to be consulted at this juncture. To restrain the leaders of opposition within bounds, and to prevent a display of those abilities and exertions, which it is infamous in them to withhold, is the bent of the coalition between B——m, and C——l—on House. The transcendent qualities of that man, whom the nation has long looked up to with reverence and affection, should disdain such trammels; and, having once openly avowed his sentiments, he should persist till he had succeeded in reducing them to practice. Such diffidence is no ways honourable to his character. It certainly is the proper season, now that the minds of men are

are flushed with the heroic ardour that has accomplished the immortal work of liberty in a neighbouring nation, to stop the torrent of abuses, and to promote the plan of reform amongst ourselves. If the occasion be neglected, neither this age nor posterity will have cause to venerate his supineness. The mere sincerity of his wishes will not deserve, nor will he receive the panegyric of history: he will sink into oblivion.

Nations have long been distracted by civil and foreign broils. The vile interest of p—ces cements the discord, and the abused, unhappy people suffer. The crimes of the kings of France have of late been faithfully translated and published in London. Would the crimes of the kings of E—d appear less horrible, or would the history of the present reign cast a light on the shade, when we reflect that during the above period, one hundred thousand innocent gallant lives, and above one hundred million of money, were sacrificed to the implacable and bloody perseverance in the American war,—that the present military arrangements in India, founded in tyranny and usurpation, promise no less sinister effects, as the plan is equally impolitic, barbarous, and unjust? Miserable short-sighted policy! The American war has established the liberty of France, and the consequences will remain an eternal lesson to k—gs, as long as such a thing shall be suffered to exist, but do their crimes appear less heinous for the good that has sprung from their criminal designs? Had what has happened been foreseen, America might still have worn the chains of this country, which would have escaped the addition of one hundred million to its debt, and France might still have groaned under the most abject and degrading slavery. On the whole, therefore, let us rejoice.

The enemies to reform inveigh against the principle by false comparisons, judging from the present state of France, not yet recovered from the wounds inflicted by her own unnatural children, and still threatened by those miserable emigrants who have the insolent audacity to set up the Ideal Rights of Princes in competition with the Real Rights and Happiness of Mankind. They judge of the condition of others from the tranquillity and honours they themselves enjoy; but it is not the partial ease and security of the rich that should operate with

British

British Legislators. It is their duty to extend their views much farther. In proportion to the degree of luxury on one side, there exists a degree of want and wretchedness on the other, and as poverty is the parent and nurse of crimes, an equal degree of corruption and profligacy on both. Mr. Pitt may bestow all his care and attention on finance, and without a shadow of claim, regard himself as a great Financier; but there are other objects that at present command the vigilant attention of a minister. Mr. Pitt appears rather as a pitiful exciseman, than as the minister of a great nation, and while his sole study is bent on contrivances to supply the little dirty temporary exigencies of Finance, whereon he imagines his continuance in office to depend, he wholly neglects the vast constitutional interests of the kingdom. On which ever side they turn, the people have nothing to expect but from their own energy and virtue. Administration is hostile, Opposition seems sunk into a state of the most stupid apathy: the heir apparent himself is devoted to the meanest pursuits, and the meanest society, and seems only to dread the hour that a burthen to which he feels himself so unequal, is to fall on him. A reform in our government may relieve him from his anxiety, and he may still disappoint general expectation. He himself may have a glorious opportunity of redeeming all his faults, and by voluntarily and earnestly promoting the plan, appear in the best and greatest of all characters, the first of patriot citizens.

THE D-E-K OF Y-K.

NO nation ever seemed more stupidly rooted in admiration of the glare and parade of royalty than the English. France, when in the zenith of enthusiasm for the principles of monarchy, and the glory of her grand monarque, never betrayed such disgusting instances of it as we actually behold in this country. The *blessings* of the present reign might have yielded better instructions, but there are some so impenetrable to conviction, as not to

to be convinced, though one were to rise from the dead. The fulsome adulation that fills the majority of our daily prints, is a disgrace to the national character. From thence the people are led to understand that the look, the dress, the very gestures of their p—nces are objects of importance to them. The latter, on their part, do their best to keep up the absurdity. We read of the ground being covered with green baize, the bare earth not being good enough for royal feet to tread on, canopies of state, erected for the reception of the most insignificant puppets that act in this farce, and the whole described in our public newspapers with all possible seriousness and solemnity, in order to delude and overawe the minds of the multitude.* Happy, however, are we to know that the sensible, enlightened part of the nation, whose voice must eventually prevail, view all this pomp and absurdity with the disgust it merits.

The achievements of the prince in question, since his first return from Germany, have been chiefly confined to the parade in St. James's Park, and to the Tennis-Court in James-Street, with pretty frequent relaxation amongst the nymphs of Be-kely-Row. Nevertheless, his R——I P——ts early pronounced him the Hope of the Family; and once, in an hour of festivity, when this Hope of the Family was so intoxicated as to fall senseless under the

* The numberless advantages acquired by this country since the accession of G——e the Th—rd, are too evident to require illustration; but amongst other instances of apparent national prosperity, we cannot forbear to mention our great conquests, and glory derived from the American war,—the very flattering diminution of the national debt—the comfortable relief which the people have experienced from the amazing decrease of taxes, and above all, the obligation they must ever acknowledge, for the *total* abolition of those excise laws, which certainly were not altogether consistent with the spirit of a constitution eternally boasting its freedom.

Such are the pitiful artifices which are at present practised in the British Court, with a view of fascinating popular opinion by the vain glare of additional splendor and magnificence, thereby hoping to crush that liberal spirit of equalization which prevails elsewhere, and to keep up as long as possible the odious, barbarous system of aristocracy, that is not yet exploded amongst us.

For private acts of charity and royal munificence, they are not quite so manifest; therefore we must, in candour allow the more merit to that amiable modesty which conceals them from public admiration.

table,

table, the p --e, his brother, with his glass in hand, standing over this fallen body, performed the ceremony of baptism, triumphantly exclaiming,

Here lie the Hopes of the Family.

Farther than we have mentioned, the virtues and talents of this prince are unknown to us; we shall, therefore, transcribe his character as drawn by the late Mons. de Mirabeau, who met him a few years ago on the continent. Writing from Brunswick, he speaks of him as follows:

Le Duc d'York est arrivé ici ce soir, et l'empereur n'aurait pas été traité avec plus de respect, et surtout par la duchesse sa Tante. Le Duc D'Y-k puissant chasseur, puissant buveur, tueur infatigable, sans graces, sans contenance, sans politesse, ressent une espece de passion pour une Femmē Mariéé à un Mari jaloux qui le tourmente & le detourne d'un établissement. Il y a plusieurs versions sur son compte. On dit qu' apres avoir été libertin effréné, il lui vient quelque veillité de faire son metier. Pour moi, je lui trouve toute l'encolure d'un prince Allemand, double d'insolence-Anglaise, mais dépourvu de la libre cordialité de cette nation.

D—KE OF B——D.

IF there was wanting further proof of the blindness of fortune, her favours prostituted on this nobleman would confirm it. Avarice is the vice of old age, when it predominates in young men, it is intolerable. Possessed of immense riches, together with the most powerful connections, and commanding influence in this country, these extraordinary advantages serve no other purpose than to promote his own sordid views. Insensible to the duties allotted to his station, nor feeling the delight of relieving those who labour under the pressure of adversity, it is his sole, invariable study to increase the enormous wealth he already possesses. He started early on the turf, which immediately disclosed the bent of his mind.

Unlike

Unlike other young men, instead of following it as an amusement, he reduced himself to a level with the lowest black-leg, by a scandalous zeal to convert it into profit. Just emancipated from the discipline of Westminster school, and the trammels of his grandmother, it might have been presumed that the enjoyments of liberty would have expanded his mind; but the principle was innate, and from the earliest period, he appears more emulous to vie with Mr. Og-n as a scientific calculator of chances in the odds at Newmarket, than to adopt the sentiments of a gentleman, pursuing his pleasure*.

We all remember how Junis, in his immortal letter to the late Duke of B—d, lamenting what he was, tells him what he might have been; let us refer his present G—ce, as a lesson of admonition to that letter. It is not too late in life for him to discover his error, and to correct the plan on which he has begun. He will have cause to rejoice in the alteration; and, if it be not his own fault, he may still be the instrument of happiness to thousands, and become an ornament and blessing to his country, by a judicious exertion of his influence to accelerate that reform of government, which, sooner or later, must inevitable take place.

His G—ce has made the tour of Europe on a *Platonic* system, with an antiquated demirep, once the mistress of a noble D—ke, when prime minister of this country, and afterwards distinguished by her amours and travels with another D—ke, who, not long since, was our ambassador at the court of France. This lady, after having run the gauntlet of Europe, under all the vicissitudes of fortune, is actually the legitimate wife of a British peer. Since the D—ke of B—d's abdication of her, he connected himself with another, whose *youth, beauty and accomplishments* defy panegyric, and are the sure criterion of his

* When the D—ke of B—d was extremely young, on almost his first appearance at Newmarket, he met a celebrated character on the turf at that time, known by the name of Count Swele. The Count was in very indifferent circumstances, and pressing his G—ce to a bet, the D—ke offered far less odds than were current on the race:—no more than five to four:—when the Count quaintly replied, No, my Lord, the black-legs will bet me two to one.

Hence we may perceive how soon this young mind unravelled itself.

taste and judgment. That connection is now dissolved, and we believe his Grace to be at present without any female attachment.

MR. D—T—N.

WE have little to observe in regard to this gentleman. He has of late attached himself very closely to the D—ke of B—d, is his declared confederate on the turf, and supposed to have much weight with him in the ordinary occurrences of life. He is a good-humoured social companion, plays an excellent game at whist, and seems to follow up his own interest with as much zeal, as any of his acquaintance.

D—KE OF G—T—N.

THIS n—blem-n comes from an impure race. He is a bastard descendant from Charles the Second. If there were wanting additional monuments to the glory of the present reign, it should be remembered that the D—ke of G—t—n was at one period the prime minister of this country. That administration is consigned to eternal obloquy by the pen of one, whose labours, however periodical the subject, will render their author immortal. They drove this man from the helm, to that retirement and obscurity, under the safeguard of which he has since sheltered himself. He was long connected with the L-dy we have before mentioned, when, fearing the effects of popular indignation, he basely abandoned her, and unadmonished by experience, having already married one *slipperary* damsel, from the same family, who is now living, he again united himself in marriage with another *beautiful* virgin of the *immaculate* house of Bloomsbury.

Bloomsbury. His principles are haughty and tyrannical, his temper sullen and irascible, impatient of contradiction, ever making his will the law.

Quod vult, sic jubet,

Nevertheless, he is now sunk into the most contemptible insignificance, and seems to have given up all thoughts of incurring further notoriety.

D-E KE OF Q-NSE-RY.

FEW persons are so generally known as the no——n in question. He has long shone a splendid meteor on this metropolis of voluptuousness, and, even in his *decadence*, still adheres to those Epicurean principles which distinguished his youth; although it is to be lamented, that he now affords only a disgusting instance of extreme folly, in affecting to appear, what it is physically impossible for him to practise.

The celebrated retort of the great Mr. Pitt on Horatio Walpole, who attacked him on the score of his being a young man, may very properly be applied to his Grace.

Mr. Pitt wishes that "his follies may cease with his youth, and that he may not be included in that number, who are ignorant in spite of experience." He farther observes, "that age becomes justly contemptible, when the opportunities, which it brings, have past away without improvement, and vice appears to prevail when the passions have subsided*."

No man possesses a more useful understanding, more worldly sense than his Gr-ce, but he cannot conquer habit which is so grafted in him as to be a second nature, else he would perceive the melancholy, contemptible spectacle he now exhibits, and escape that derision, to which he daily exposes himself. We may apply to him the verse of Horace,

Lusisti satis, edisti satis, atque bibisti.
Tempus abire tibi.

* Vide Parliamentary debates.

The

The D—ke's exploits have not been merely confined to the sphere of gallantry. In the annals of Newmarket his fame will ever live. From his youth upwards, to the present day, however numerous and skilfull his rivals, none ever excelled him in the mysteries and manœuvres of the turf, where it cannot be concealed he has occasionally indulged himself in a wider latitude than, with strict integrity, could possibly be admitted. His long intimacy with Dick G—df—n, who is rather to be considered as a confidential adviser, than as a menial servant, reflects no honour, and the riches acquired by the groom, under the auspices of his master, yield room for just suspicion.

We cannot expatiate on the disinterested benevolence of his G—ce; we cannot say, "that he has a soul open "as day to melting charity*;" but he is ever foremost to greet the arrival of a great foreign Prince, and, independent of all principle, to court the sunshine of r-y-l favour. On such occasions pecuniary sacrifices are only a secondary consideration.

On the whole, he is to be regarded as a man of a selfish interested mind. All his actions bear the stamp of splendid ostentation, not of pure unalloyed generosity.

EARL G—N—R.

IN tracing the lineaments of his Lordship's countenance, we behold the faithful index of a sordid vicious mind; and Lavater would be highly flattered, by this additional striking illustration of his ingenious and eccentric system. Here we discover another instance of the extravagant absurdity and madness of the indiscriminate abuse of titles, generally conferred on those, whose manners and principles would disgrace the very lowest class of Society. We can make allowance for the coarsest vulgarity, when united with an open, generous, and humane disposition; but where we can perceive no moral beauty to counterbalance the blemishes of physical deformity, the picture is then completely frightful.

* Shakespear.

Some

Some persons are born predestinarians. Doctor Dodd was always fully persuaded, that he should one day be hanged; a fate however, that he might have escaped, had it not been for one of the most distinguished R——l Favourites *, who would not dispense with the principles of tremendous justice, even in behalf of his tutor and his friend. The doctor's presentiment was fulfilled. Perhaps this noble Peer laboured so heavily under the same impression, that he was desirous of saving Jack Catch the trouble of his office, when he was found hanging, and unfortunately cut down by a Stable Boy at York.

His lordship never performed a generous action in his life, and but once a just one; and that was, when he attempted to hang himself, in which, had he succeeded, the world would highly have extolled the deed, as an act of the most exemplary justice. He has survived the attempt, and it is in the womb of fate, how he is hereafter to be disposed of. At present he appears recruited in spirits, and he pursues, with unabated perseverance, the same plan of filthy debauchery, that he followed, in his younger days; with this only difference, that, as his powers decay, his vices, if possible, are more loathsome and degenerate.

LORD B—G—E

IS son to the above nobleman, and opened a brilliant career in the sudden display of his extraordinary talents, as a scholar, an orator, and a statesman. The most competent judges have already pronounced him a deep and learned Grecian: his eloquence is of that peculiar kind, as must ever extort admiration, and his abilities, as a statesman, although yet in blossom, leave no reason to doubt what they will be, when arrived at maturity. It were to be wished, however, that this truly hopeful young man, who promises one day to reflect so much additional lustre on the British Peerage, and who has already shewn himself so profoundly studious in the dead, would conde-

* Earl of C—t—f—d.

scend to bestow a little more attention on the living languages;—at least on his own. The specimen already exhibited in those masterly essays of elocution, with which he has hitherto entertained and instructed the H—se of C—m—ns, are only deficient in that point, which some persons are fastidious enough to require in Parliamentary speeches—a practical knowledge of grammar.

In other respects, his manner is so unaffected, the graces of his person so captivating, that the House in general, which, (from whatever cause it may happen) is too often deserted on these occasions, and the ladies in particular when they honour the gallery with their presence, declare him absolutely irresistible.

His Lordship's support of the present administration adds fresh laurels to the triumphs of Mr. P—tt, and much may be justly expected from Lord B—lg—e, in whom the *virtues* of both his parents are united.

OLD D—K V—N—N.

THIS veteran is one of the very few that remain of the old Bloomsbury gang. Almost all the rest have passed the Stygian lake; and if rewards, and punishments be allotted to a future state, he has just reason to tremble for the fate of himself and friends.

Mr. V—n—n began his career in life as an ensign in the guards: He immediately betrayed an uncommon penchant for gaming; a science, however, in which he has displayed more the skill and prudence of a professional gambler than the zeal and passion of an amateur. He was very soon initiated into the mysteries of the turf, and at an early period had reached the climax of the art. From extraordinary success, and never failing caution, he is now supposed to be worth £100,000, although his original fortune did not exceed £3000. In the midst of dissipation, he ever preserved a system of frugality, bordering on avarice. The love of money often hurries him beyond the bounds of decency, and he is notorious for denying bets, when the race has been decided against him. Uniform regularity and attention to his affairs have marked

marked his conduct through life. Unpolished, and even illiterate in his conversation, he possesses other advantages, that have enabled him to run his race with success. Prudence and strong worldly sense are the qualities that have sustained Mr. V——n. He has an excellent house at Newmarket, but much cannot be said in favour of his hospitality. He is greatly attached to the pleasures of his garden, which is equal to any in the kingdom. No longer in parliament, his residence is now altogether in the country, to which he is probably induced, by his connection with a lady, who, was once a celebrated beauty in the house of the well known C——l——te H——es, now Mrs. O'K——ly, widow of the late Count O'K——ly. This Lady's behaviour has been truly exemplary during her abode at Newmarket; and it is not to be doubted, but her friend will reward her in his will*. Mr. V——n is now far advanced in years, but his faculties are perfect, and he is still regarded as the oracle of Newmarket.

GENERAL S——TH.

THIS distinguished character, (to use the Grub-street phrase) was born of poor but honest parents in St James's Market, where they carried on the business of a retail cheesemonger; and there are persons, now living, who remember the present General carrying cheeses on his head to his father's customers.

Pride and insolence are the prominent features in this profligate upstart; and they are arrived to such excess, as to render his deportment ludicrous to the highest degree.

He went out early in life to India, where he amassed prodigious wealth, which, after various vicissitudes, he is reported to have squandered at the gaming tables, and we now believe him in great poverty: so that, if he can-

* A remarkable instance of genuine simplicity is related of Polly V——r——n. Being one day in company with the late Lord L——t——n, at the house of Mrs. H——es, his Lordship who was terribly addicted to blasphemy, asked her if she knew one J——s — C——k, when she replied with all possible naiveté, that she wondered at his Lordship's ignorance, that she never was acquainted with no foreigners.

not

not say with Macheath, that the road has done him justice, he may at least exclaim, with that hero, that the gaming table has been his ruin.

The General is also a politician and a patriot; and of his patriotism, a memorable instance is on record, having been formerly convicted of bribery, at a popular election, for which he was fined, and condemned to a year's imprisonment in the King's Bench. He has likewise appeared in public, on Mr. Foote's theatre, in the Haymarket, in the character of Sir Matthew Mite.

As the General derived all his consequence from his money, so, having lost it, he is sunk into his original insignificance.

THE YOUNG G—N—R—L.

IS son of the above mentioned gentleman, and his appearance announces his origin. He improves on all the follies and vices of his father; and, in saying this, it is impossible to go further, it being the ne plus ultra of extravagant absurdity.

SIR F. M—L—N—X.

IN contemplating the sensible expressive features, the grand majestic figure of this valourous knight, our imagination involuntarily recurs to the days of chivalry. Indeed his genius seems far more adapted to have shone conspicuous in those heroic ages, than calculated for the puny degenerate system of the present day. Like his great coadjutor, Mr. Burke, he laments that the age of chivalry is past: like him, he has long laboured within his own peculiar province, both by instruction and example, to revive the system. Vauxhall and Ranelagh have been the theatre of his wonderous feats of gallantry. Within those circles, many are the distressed damsels whom

whom he has rescued ; yet, strange to relate, his prowess still is left unrewarded. All the revolving years that have gone over his head, and marked him venerably grey, have left him only to lament the fruitless efforts of his matchless perseverance. No tender maid, no amiable widow with 50 or £.100,000, and to many thousands his hand and heart have been proffered, ever seemed inclined to reward his faithful constancy. His merit could not be denied, but his offers were invariably rejected. Blind to worth, his own sex have not acted with less ingratitude.—For him the word Bore was first brought into use. It was he who chiefly contributed to promote the currency of that word, and long has he been considered as the head of that numerous body of citizens. With what justice, candour must decide. Prejudice is strong against him, for he talks much, and although his conversation ever turns on the most interesting subject—himself, yet he seldom attracts more than one solitary admiring hearer.

The Knight's achievements have not been confined to the metropolis alone, an admirer of the olympic games of antiquity, the plains of York and Newmarket have natural attractions for him. There, indeed, his sphere is more contracted : there he acts rather in a menial, than in a principal capacity : but there his services are more honourably and gratefully rewarded*. Although devoted to the interests of his friend, he has no attention to render them subservient to his own ; and if our hero's appointment as Gen —n U-h-r of the B—ck R-d is during life, and produces a clear £.2500 per ann. and that he has a good independent estate of his own, yet his fortune is far unequal to his deserts. He never turned his back on a friend in adversity, whose favour he courted in prosperity. His heart and his purse are ever open to the unfortunate, and it is to be hoped he will one day be exalted to a situation, where he will be duly rewarded.

* The Knight's philanthropy knows no bounds, for, although uncommonly tenacious of the respect due to his rank and dignity, yet he often forgoes all considerations of that kind, in order to serve his friends. His employment at Newmarket is to bet for others, and the only reward he obtains for this eminent service, is, when (to use a technical phrase) the race is considered as a certainty, and the odds are four or five to one, he is permitted to bet a few guineas on *even* terms with his employer on the favourite horse.

Services should be rewarded.

SIR H. F—ST—N.

IT is not always just to form an opinion from first appearances. The rule must not be deemed infallible, though it generally holds good ; and, as far as it concerns the gentleman under our review, the exception cannot possibly, be admitted. His person, voice, and manners, are superlatively effeminate and disgusting : and we are ignorant of any one good quality in his nature, to efface the unfavourable prepossession his exterior inspires. We cannot bestow merit on a negative character, nor will we allow any praise to one, who never does ill, if he has it in his power, and never does good. From such a barren soil, the produce must necessarily be thin, and we dismiss this subject, as it will scarcely admit of further discussion.

EARL C—M—T.

HERE, we behold a hardened, incorrigible veteran in every species of iniquity. Unadmonished by time, and ignorant in spite experience, with unblushing front, he still exposes his vices to the world. Virtue is said to have its own reward, and we are convinced that, to a generous mind, the inward satisfaction of performing its duty, is superior to all it could receive from any extrinsic source. But during this pious reign, how have favour and titles been prostituted. The above nobleman in the space of a very few years, has passed through three different degrees of nobility, till we actually behold him an Earl of the kingdom of Ireland. If there existed no other instance of the kind to create disgust, surely the present example ought to shock us with the barbarous absurdity of such distinctions, when lavished on the most contemptible of the human race.—Tottering on the verge of eighty, this hoary sycophant, this minion of courts, is still remarkable only for his profligacy ; and, when he dies, will not leave on record, one single virtue, in the least degree to expiate the load of infamy, with which he is overwhelmed. This nobleman has an appointment on the P—e of W—s's establishment, and is another brilliant ornament of his court.

LORD

LORD F—L—Y.

ANOTHER ornament to nobility. He started early in life on the wide theatre of this metropolis, when credulity was all alive, and every speculator was open to every fraud, Jews and Gentiles were indifferent to Mr. F—L—Y. No proposition, however exorbitant, met resistance on his part. Sign, seal, and deliver, was the final issue of every pecuniary treaty. His father died, when the unexpected contents of his will, reduced the Jews to despair, and relieved his right honourable successor from an infinity of embarrassments.—To this nobleman, however, it is owing, that the above kind of annuity credit is in a great measure destroyed. From such an example, a bill was brought in, and carried through parliament, that in a great degree, abolished the evil, and the present Lord F—L—Y, in actual possession of a clear income of £.4000 per ann. with two excellent houses kept up for his use, now bids defiance to his creditors, seeks shelter from a gaol, under protection of his peerage, and contracts fresh debts, whenever the occasion occurs, without condescending to indulge an idea of payment. On the 'Change, the Jews still tremble at the name of F—L—Y; at Newmarket the name has lost all its original credit, and the blacklegs now *call for cover*, before his Lordship can accomplish his bets.

MR. CH—LES WY—D—M.

HOW few there are who have sufficient discernment to pass judgment on others. Mr. W—d—m, amongst his associates passes as a mighty clever fellow; and as the society in which he lives, is looked up to as the standard of infallibility, the ladies have necessarily adopted the opinion, and he is equally a favourite with them. From their decision there can be no appeal; but it is no heresy to differ in sentiment from others. With the most vacant, stupid

stupid countenance, he may have *hidden charms* that are pleasing to the fair sex ; but we can perceive no accomplishment that ought to operate to his advantage with us. We have always thought what is called good nature, to be the most agreeable quality a man in society can possess. He evidently has it not. His manners are dry and uncouth. In conversation he generally takes the ill-natured side of a question ; and from the closest observation, not a single trait ever occurred to us, that we could record to his praise.

EARL OF E—GR——T.

INSIPIDITY and ennui are the characteristics of this nobleman. Of such a restless disposition, that nothing is sufficiently attractive to fix his attention ten minutes together. If we behold him for an instant, in a place of public entertainment, although even Mrs. Siddons performed, the next, he disappears. With an immense income, he seems uncomfortable and dissatisfied : but, in justice, it must be observed, that he is reported to be charitable and benevolent ; at least, if we are to judge by the rule of comparison with others.

His connection with a celebrated woman of fashion, and the services he rendered her family, during a long time, furnished matter for the Scandalous Chronicle, although her Ladyship is now too far advanced in the vale of years, to retain any influence over him, on account of her personal charms.

His Lordship at present seems much devoted, if not to the conviviality, at least, to the excesses of the table. There, his principal delight appears to consist : so that, with all his riches and advantages, in our opinion, he is rather a pitiable, than an enviable subject.

G—GE

G—GE H—G—R.

HOW will it be possible to trace the eccentric disposition of this extraordinary person? His oddities, however, would not be noticed by us, if on the other side, we could perceive any worthy quality to dwell upon.

Some men affect wisdom, who are extremely ignorant; but it seldom happens that a person, excessively foolish, still affects folly. The person in question is admirably calculated to have shone a conspicuous figure in courts, when it was the custom to keep a f—l. He rarely attempts to speak, unless it be to entertain the company with some instance or confession of his own folly; indeed, he might spare himself the pains, it being sufficiently obvious to all.

With an affectation of indifference, he is an egregious coxcomb, and he formerly reminded us very much of Beau Clincher in his fine cloaths. He has lately been honourably employed, as a crimp, by the East India company, to raise recruits for their service; and, as a proper reward for his merit, been advanced to an appointment in the P—'s household; with whom he has the happiness of being in the habits of particular intimacy.

COL. F—.

DID the general character of Col. F— keep pace with his intellectual accomplishments, he were indeed the *Arabian bird*, and would leave all competition far behind; but, alas! we are bound to confess, that, if we view in him much to admire, there still exists more to condemn, and the balance casts, the odds would be on the unfavourable side.

We must not suffer his many fascinating qualities to delude our judgment, or to triumph over that strict impartiality, which is the basis of this publication, whose avowed purpose, is to hold up the mirror of truth, in exposing

posing the folly or vices of those, whom, from their superior rank and education, the public falsely consider as the oracle of right, and whose example has an invincible tendency to corrupt the taste and manners of the age.

All the charms of conversation, the brilliancy of wit, and the splendour of convivial talents are here united. Incidents, which agitate and torment the minds of other men, affect not him. At the gaming table, where human passions generally appear in the most hideous colours, amidst all the vexations of ill luck disappointment, his temper still preserves its natural serenity. Nay often, such philosophy does he display on these occasions, that he converts his very misfortunes into matter of pleasantry and mirth. It may be urged, perhaps, in explanation, that his indifference as to payment of his losses, accounts for this stoic composure; but, all things considered, it must fairly be admitted, that, in the case before us, he presents a very rare instance of equanimity and good sense.

Through the influence of his friend Mr. F-x, during Lord R——m's last administration, he went out secretary to Ireland, with the D-ke of P——d. In that capacity, he displayed no very superior abilities. On the death of Lord R——m, the D-ke and he returned to their private stations, and when the coalition took place, through the same influence and invariable friendship of Mr. F-x, he was appointed secretary at war; but the C——l's talents seem ill adapted to business: nor in the H——se of C-m-ns, although no person possesses more fluency of language, or fertility of genius, has he ever yet, however often attempted, afforded a single specimen of eloquence, judgment, or ability. As a statesman and orator, he has greatly disappointed the sanguine expectation of his friend and connections, who were led to anticipate wonders from his uncommon talents in a different sphere; but universal excellence is the lot of very, very few.

Having acknowledged his merit, where it was due to him, we must now turn from the happy side of this gentleman's character, and view him where it appears very much in the shade.

To any fixed principle of morality he is an utter stranger. No sense of duty, or attachment to obligation ever served as a restraint on his conduct. Punctuality, or adherence

adherence to engagement, seem beneath his notice, and hence, his credit is universally bad; equally in disrepute with Jews and Gentiles; with the tradesman in London, and the blacklegs on the plains of Newmarket. There is some praise due, when a man pays to the best of his power; but, what ever favourable change the C——l may have at times experienced in his finances, his aversion to payment has shewn itself unalterable, having never discovered the least inclination to discharge either his ---- or honourable debts. Whenever such an event has happened, it has been from compulsion, never from choice.

Libertine in all his principles, he is more sensual in his pleasures than delicacy will permit us to mention; and over this part of his life we cast a veil.

He lived many years with a noted c-t-z-n, who appeared publicly as his declared mistress. A man of fashion's protection serves highly to recommend ladies of this description, and numberless worthy citizens were the dupes of an intrigue with the avowed protegé of C——l F——; ignorant, that the generous, disinterested lover, connived at the fair one's infidelity. The house of Mrs. W——n, the seat of her juvenile pleasures, continued still the rendezvous of her maturer and more profitable enjoyments. The venerable matron afforded her best sanction to promote the interests of her friend, and Jews and Christians indiscriminately poured in their tribute, to feed the vanity and replenish the purse of the fickle fair one. We are ignorant, whether this attachment continues, but have been of late informed, that the Lady is in habits of intimacy with a young man of the name of A——ir; and that the Col. is devoted to a rural retirement. We imagine, that the lucrative enticement of Faro will soon allure him back to London; and, it is to be hoped, in case of the usual success, that he will disarm the resentment of his creditors, by fulfilling his engagements, which he was able to do long ago, had he been so inclined.

MR. H—RE.

Mr. H—re is the son of a poor apothecary at a small village in the west of England, where (to use the language of Shakespeare) might be observed a beggarly account of empty boxes, and was educated on the foundation at Eton, where he cultivated an acquaintance with Lord C—l—e, Mr. F—x, and various other distinguished persons, which has been the basis of his actual situation; but whether, from his patronage, he is a better or happier man, is a question not for us to decide. Through their influence, he was introduced into all the fashionable circles of what is called, the best company; brought into parliament; and married to a lady of family and fortune. This marriage being merely of a convenient nature, suited to the slender finances of our young apothecary, he soon emancipated himself from the shackles of matrimony, leaving his widowed wife to deplore his faithless inconstancy. Previous to this connection, during his residence at Cambridge, he had formed an attachment with an impure of that neighbourhood, by whom he has a son, now living, who (we believe) enjoys some sinecure place in the duchy of Cornwall, by virtue of his father's interest with the P—e of W—s.

This gentleman is scarcely inferior to C—l F—k in all the social qualities that are calculated to entrap admiration; but there is no solid ground for praise or esteem. Like him, his genius is chiefly adapted to the circle of convivial pleasures, and like him, although possessed of matchless effrontery, never has he afforded any proof of ability within the walls of St. Ste—ns Ch—p—l, where from his silence, he is regarded as a mere cypher. During the many years he has been in P—l—t, we don't remember him ever once to have delivered his sentiments in debate, notwithstanding the high expectation which the vast fame of his talents had raised; and as no *mauvaise honte* was in the way to impede his success, we are more at a loss to account for a want of ambition in that line of life, in which, had he succeeded, it might have so greatly added to his fame and reputation.

Mr. H—e very soon got rid of the marriage portion he received with his lady, and has since supported a very brilliant situation, by his property in a Faro Bank, and by his knowledge and address in every species of gaming.

We cannot help again lamenting such a prodigal waste of great natural endowments, the splendour of which necessarily attracts popular notice, and through the united influence of fashion, gives currency to every kind of moral turpitude.

This gentleman has lived many years with the sister of a K—t of the B—th, remarkable only for the enormous size of a star, the constant ornament of his elegant person.

MR. S—R—D—N.

IN expatiating the vast field of humanity, we must again lament, how seldom is to be found a coalition of extraordinary genius and talents, with superior moral excellence.

When we attempted a sketch of Col. F— p—t—ck, we had not at the moment this gentleman within our recollection, to whom the palm of genius undoubtedly belongs.

Whether considered as a statesman, or an orator, an author, or a manager, he equally commands our admiration.

A man so various, that he seems to be,
Not one, but all mankind's epitome*.

—————In one revolving moon,
A statesman, poet, fidler, and buffoon;
Tho' wondering senates, hung on all he spoke,
The club still hails him master of the joke†.

Although elected into parliament, under every disadvantage of character and prejudice against him, wholly

* Dryden.

† Pope.

destitute of connections, he surmounted every difficulty, and by dint of abilities alone, extorted the attention and wonder of all who heard him: his close, sagacious penetration enabled him very soon to acquire a knowledge of parliamentary usages; and every subject of political discussion, seems equally familiar to him. Even on matters, where, from education and habit, one should suppose him the most ignorant, he displays a superiority, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer never opens a budget, without smarting under the rod of that piercing satire, and perspicuity of language, which never fails to expose his financial errors, and false statements, in the most glaring point of view.

If considered as an orator, we have only to recollect his oration against the great Oriental Delinquent, which, notwithstanding its excessive length, never suffered the attention of his auditors to flag, and which roused and animated lethargy itself*. If Cicero excited the indignation of the Roman people, by dint of his eloquence, against the infamous Verres, Mr. S—r—d—n was no less successful in his harangue on that occasion, which distanced all competition†.

As an author, without dwelling on the beauty or ingenuity of his minor productions, we shall only remark, that his Monody on the death of Garrick, is equal to any thing of the kind, and his plays are unquestionably the chef-d'œuvres of modern dramatic productions.

In his professional capacity, as managing the internal œconomy of the theatre, his good sense and liberal policy, serve admirably to counteract the contracted system, and niggardly parsimony of his mother-in-law; and the success hitherto experienced, justifies the most sanguine opinion of his theatrical speculations. Indeed, it is unnatural to suppose, that a person of such intellectual endowments, should not prosper in every enterprise, in the behalf of which, he finds it his interest to apply his labour and abilities.

* See Hastings's Trial, Part Second.

† From our observation, during the last Sessions of parliament, Mr. S—n appears no longer inspired with the same ardour and enthusiasm, and calumnious reports are in circulation, which we hope the sequel of his conduct will refute.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding the number of engagements which occupy this gentleman, still he is far from being wholly devoted to business. In the career of pleasure, he proceeds at least *passibus æquis*. In the pursuit of voluptuous enjoyments, although his face and person are much bloated and disfigured by his nocturnal orgies, and frequent bacchanalian sacrifices, his address and ingenuity surmount every physical disadvantage, and his amours are not of that sordid, low description, which most of his friends are so eager to cultivate.

Received in all the highest circles of the fashionable world, he finds it not difficult to turn his accomplishments to the best advantage. It is there, where lust and debauchery are as predominant as in the brothels of Drury or Whitechapel: the sole difference consisting in the artificial refinement and hypocrisy that conceals them.

We have surveyed the fair side of Mr. S——n's character, and; *ob! si sic omnia*: but justice and truth demand our obedience: we must therefore present the contrast.

In domestic life, this gentleman is not so happy. Mutual jealousy and family bickerings poison, the source of that connection, which might otherwise yield all possible felicity. Where there are such talents, and accomplishments on both sides, unless counterbalanced by some singular spirit of contradiction, the connubial state must necessarily ensure happiness; but few persons know the foundation on which their true happiness rests; hence, they neglect their most solid interests.

In his dealings with the world, he is negligent and unprincipled; without regard for the sufferings of others; inattentive to punctuality, and heedless of the vexation and disappointment that he occasions to those who have the justest and most indispensable claims upon him, he sacrifices every duty, rather than submit to the least temporary inconvenience. A bad paymaster, many a miserable tradesman imprecates curses on his head, and what aggravates the crime beyond measure, is, that we have reason to believe his circumstances infinitely more affluent than he labours to represent them. No principle of honour or conscience restrains him, when it appears contrary to what he deems his advantage; and the present unhappy situation of his copartner Dr. F——d is imputed to him

In.

In a moral sense, we are under the necessity of strongly reprobating this gentleman; but he stands on a very critical and exalted eminence, and the public have expectations from his political rectitude. We would not therefore irritate him, by probing his failings too sorely, and he may make ample atonement for them all, by exerting his various and commanding talents to effect such a reform in the government of this country, as can alone establish its permanent happiness and glory. He is said to possess the confidence of a great P——ce, and although different habits may preclude any very great intimacy in social life, yet it is to be hoped, that he will neglect no occasion of instilling those popular principles, which he has himself avowed, into the mind of the person in question. The auspicious day may come, when it will be in his power to reduce a regular and beautiful system into practice. Mr. S—R—D—N has hitherto evinced no versatility or inconsistency in his political principles. He was one of those who submitted to, but did not approve, the coalition. He has uniformly and zealously asserted the rights of the people; and as, in point of judgment, knowledge, and experience, he stands unrivalled; so it is to be expected, he will turn them to the best account, by rendering them beneficial to a nation, whence he derives such signal advantages: and infamous indeed would it be, were he then to shrink from his duty, and compromise the dearest interests of a nation, to adulterate the passions, or feed the prejudices of a P——e. It may be presumed, that Mr. S——n will act in a manner more worthy of his exalted genius; that he will be animated by nobler and more generous motives; and, whatever his private foibles may be, that, disdaining the ignoble path of servility, which the venal herd of favourites have hitherto pursued, he will point out a new and striking example, by enforcing the practice of public virtue, the memory of which must be an eternal source of ineffable satisfaction and delight to himself, and of real honour and glory to his friend. Hence, he will be adored while living, and his name enrolled on the register of immortality, amongst the most distinguished patriots and benefactors of mankind.

Mr.

MR. F—x.

THE mind of Mr. F—x was formed in Nature's happiest mood. Amidst all the vicissitudes of fortune, he ever preserved an equanimity and moderation, that has procured him universal esteem. Placable in his enmities, it is impossible to be more sincere and zealous than he is in his friendships, and he is certainly more indebted to his social qualities, for the popularity he enjoys, than to any confidence reposed in his political consistency or abilities. His public life has been too strongly marked by well known memorable events, to render any prolix detail necessary. An open, undesigning disposition has been frequently dupe to the artifices of others, and a too yielding pliability of character, has exposed him to difficulties, which, were his years protracted to patriarchal longevity, he would never be able to conquer.

Mr. F—x was the darling child of a partial and indulgent father, who, at a very early age, pronounced him a phenomenon of genius and erudition. To his affectionate care he owes all the advantages derivable from the most refined and cultivated education, and where so much pains were bestowed on such a promising young plant, it is natural to suppose, that it must one day attain a certain degree of perfection; nevertheless, he owes much of his fame to the prepossession inspired by an opinion flowing from such high authority. The generality of men are incapable of investing characters, and apt, very often on false grounds, take up any thing on mere report, under no better sanction, than the partiality or prejudice of others. Mr. F—x however certainly possesses the good opinion of the people, and his popularity should animate him to make the best and most grateful requital, by increasing his exertions in their cause. We disclaim all personalities, and profess respect for the constitution of a limited monarchy; but, in all monarchical governments, till the late happy and glorious revolution in France, the influence of the crown has been enormous, and invariably perverted to the most grievous abuses. Kings, from their very first establishment, have been in general so wicked and tyrannical, that regicides and tyrannicides are almost synonymous terms.

There

There may be some few exceptions; and if the bigotted assassin, who stabbed Henry IV. strikes us with horror, the miserable wretch, who was afterwards tortured for an abortive attempt on the life of that profligate, unfeeling despot, Louis XV., causes very different emotions. The life of the poorest man in existence, is as precious and sacred as that of a monarch on his throne, which is no otherwise valuable, than as he dispenses liberty and happiness to a nation. If his life produces no national benefit, his death cannot be held a national misfortune. It becomes Mr. F—x therefore, to rouse from his supineness, and to exert all his *influence*, to reduce that enormous *influence* which is still annexed to the c——n of G——t B——n.

He was trained in a manner expressly for the H——e of C——ns, and if he has there acquired a kind of mechanical dexterity, in the management of a debate, or in seizing the happiest moment of turning every trivial error of his adversary to the utmost advantage; yet, it must be admitted, that, in respect to universality of genius or knowledge, he is as much inferior to the person, a sketch of whom we have just attempted, as he may excel him in all those accomplishments and virtues, that conciliate our esteem and affection. Having said thus much, let it not be inferred, that we mean to depreciate his abilities, which, however over-rated, are unquestionably great. He will always be eminently useful and conspicuous, as a leader of opposition; but the powers of his mind are not sufficiently enlarged; he is constitutionally too inactive, and too much devoted to his pleasures, to be ever capable of conducting the government of a great empire with glory or advantage.

To behold him in the most favourable point of view, we must turn to his social and convivial hours. An extraordinary sweetness of temper, joined to an open sincerity of manners, with a liberality of spirit and sentiment rarely to be equalled, have raised a degree of enthusiasm in his favour, that pervades the very extensive circle of his numerous acquaintance. In conversation, if he does not display such exuberant fallies of humour and pleasantry as his friend the Colonel, it is not, that he is less entertaining, but only because he is more silent and reserved. Of a more saturnine cast, he does not so often relax from the dignity

dignity that popular admiration has annexed to his character, but whenever he allows himself to indulge his powers of festive recreation, no person inspires such general hilarity and good humour as himself.

Eager and sanguine in all his pursuits, he is no less anxious for the event of a horse-race, than he is ambitious in the race of politics. Amidst the eternal bustle and strife of political controversy, he has never been altogether engrossed by the charms of ambition.

A mind, constituted like his, must be subject to all the amiable weaknesses of humanity. Hence, an enthusiastic devotion to the sex, where, it must be confessed, his choice has not always been the most elegant and refined. Instances are within our recollection, where he has waited whole hours, exposed to every inconvenience of the severest weather, at the street-door of a notorious P—te, which was ever open to the best bidder, taking advantage of his distress, nor shewing the least compassion to his situation, for our hero has experienced all the vicissitudes of fortune. At length he appears permanently, and most affectionately, attached to a truly amiable woman, whose temper is congenial with his own ; who compensates for the defects of education, by the excellent qualities of her heart, which would adorn any station to which she might be exalted. An union on such principles, where there is so strong a sympathy between the parties, unrestrained by compulsion or necessity, at a time of life, when the passions are in the wane, promises the happiest duration.

It seems extraordinary, that the warmest partizans of this exalted character are, in general, themselves of the most vicious cast ; but, true it is, that however immersed in depravity men may be, they respect merit in others, and it constitutes one great advantage in the life of Mr. F-x, that, amongst all parties, his own personal qualities have been his best protection ; and, during the most excessive heat of party violence, we don't believe that he ever had one personal enemy.

It has been our endeavour, with strict impartiality, to trace the outlines of this gentleman's character. Perhaps his partial admirers may think that we have been too lukewarm in praise, respecting his abilities, but our sentiments have been formed on the principles of close observation, and we could not suffer ourselves to deviate, from what we conceived to be the line of truth.

EARL

EARL OF D—BY.

THIS Nobleman started his political career on the true, genuine principles of aristocracy. He was a supporter of Lord N—th's *incorrupt virtuous* administration, till the ingnominious defeat of his uncle at Saratoga, when he changed sides, and declared himself the friend of liberty. We now read in the daily prints, how often he presides at the Whig Club*—of his patriotic toasts; and of the numberless, happily selected songs, in the cause of freedom, with which he treated the society: but, seriously speaking, a proselyte of this description, on such principles, can be of little service to any party†. Were virtues hereditary, he would have a natural claim on our regard. His ancestors were generally men of distinguished merit. The present Peer degenerates from their virtues, and if not infamous, his deportment renders him contemptible; so that he can be of no weight either in the moral or political balance.

* Not that Whig Club which is composed of 950 house-keepers, in the city of Westminster, who have lately entered into a correspondence with the National Assembly, and have determined at one of their meetings, “the only way to lessen the present enormous taxes, is a reform of government.”

† Lord D—by, very early in life, afforded a striking instance of *honourable consistency and liberality*.

Several young men of fashion formed a club at the Star and Garter Tavern, distinguished by the tittle of *Savoir Vivre*; when, at one of their convivial meetings, it was unanimously agreed, to elect Mr. Wilkes an honorary member; who was acquainted, by letter from the president, of the *bonour* conferred on him; and who returned thahks accordingly, expressing how happy he was in an opportunity of approaching the purlieus of St. James's. Lord D—by informed his uncle, the gallant G—ral B—g—ee of what the club had done, who remonstrated with him on the glaring impropriety of electing a man, so obnoxious to the court, and peremptorily required his relation, either to withdraw himself from the society, or to insist, at the next meeting on the patriot's expulsion. The pitiful Peer had not spirit to feel the illiberality of such infamous advice, and actually, after having been the foremost to press his unsolicited admission, with unblushing front, and unfeeling heart, moved for his exclusion.

Strange to relate; in the wonderful fluctuation of human events, Lord D—by and his uncle are now members of the Aristocratic Whig Club; both *FLAMING PATRIOTS*; while the former Patriot, is now degenerated into the vilest of all characters, the favourite sycophant of a court.

The notoriety of his attachment to a celebrated actress, whether of a sensual or Platonic nature, has long rendered him the butt of public ridicule. His grotesque figure and extravagant gestures appear more caricature than original, and if the lady's feelings are eccentric indeed, we cannot imagine the manner of pouring forth his amorous transports to be quite agreeable to them. At present, an attendant, a desired event, she retains her rank at the theatre, is unquestionably an accomplished performer, and has the sole merit of having drawn off this nobleman from those low vices and filthy debauchery, which he so long exhibited to public detestation;—that have brought on a premature old age, and rendered him an early martyr to disease and infirmity. Rank and titles are proper baubles to fascinate female genius, and we doubt not, whenever the occasion offers, will operate with sufficient influence on her mind, to make her overlook every other disadvantage, and accept the hymeneal bed of our gouty Peer.

MR. B —— CK.

IT is impossible to conceive a stronger resemblance between man and beast, than Mr. B——ck has to the animal of his name. No name could be so just and appropriate, as to external figure. The mind, however, of this gentleman is not inactive. His prompt and fertile genius embraces variety of lucrative occupations. He was, at one and the same period, engaged in a brewery, a g—ng house, and b—y house. He is besides, an usurer, a jockey, and a G—k; and whatever his eminence may be in the line of his profession, in which he was originally bred, he certainly stands pre-eminently distinguished for his talents in the three latter sciences; but his genius extends infinitely further. However unadapted by nature to shine on the theatre of gallantry, yet his amours are recorded, and they are of such a kind as might be expected, from the complexion of his mind. From sympathy, he was naturally attached to the most vicious of her sex.

Tom was during several years the declared lover and protector of the notorious mother J——n.

It was he who regulated the expences, and conducted the whole plan of her very extensive business; and, the house never flourished more than while under his very able and judicious direction. But the passions of man, are his bane. In an hour of fond and tender dalliance with this amiable object of his affections, he was weak and incautious enough, to intrust her with some of his projects yet in embryo, which even in this indulgent age, if divulged, must have involved him in eternal infamy. Let a man's *general* character be ever so flagitious, still he passes current; he is not the outcast of the community; but whenever he becomes remarkable from any one *particular* act of frailty, to which the laws of society have affixed the seal of disgrace, then his career is spent, and he ever after remains the refuse of mankind. Mr. B——ck's fair enamorata knew the world sufficiently, to be convinced of the truth of this doctrine, and in the most delicate manner possible, insinuated to him, how much he was in her power, and affected to disapprove the schemes imparted to her, as too infamous and wicked for her to be concerned in the execution of them. Poor Tom's feelings, on this occasion, were in some degree alarmed, and he endeavoured to overcome her fastidious scruples; but, as his anxiety increased, the Lady's delicacy increased also, and it was peremptorily signified to him, that it was very doubtful, whether she should not publish to the world, what a r——l he was. The ingratitudo of a beloved mistress, to the tenderest and most indulgent of lovers, never was more forcibly exemplified than in the present instance, and his sensibility was acutely wounded. At all events, it became necessary to pacify his Dulcinea, whose clamours now became outrageous, and whose object it notoriously was, to extort a sum of *bush money*, as the price of her silence.—Tom was too prudent to temporize. A congress was immediately opened, and commissioners appointed for settling the treaty. Black D——, Mrs. G——lle, *cum multis aliis*, were the respectable persons concerned in this negociation, and it is from their great ability and secrecy in concluding it, that we are still ignorant of the particulars. All we know is, that poor Tom was the dupe of his imprudence, and that at the expence of his purse; his *benoyn* has escaped.

BLACK D—.

THE origin of some men is so involved in obscurity, that it is impossible to trace it; nor, in our opinion, is it of the least consequence; for surely, more honourable it is, to be distinguished by our actions, than by any ideal merit, that a foolish custom may annex to the adventitious circumstance of birth. All we know of this gentleman's parentage is,—that he had a mother; and, without irony, it may be said, he was a truly generous and affectionate son.

The characters of some men are so generally flagitious, that the world will not give them credit for one virtue; but Mr. D— certainly was not deficient in filial piety, and that single virtue ought to expiate a number of sins. Happy should we be, were it in our power to extend our unaffected praises further; but truth is the basis of this work, and we must not depart from it.

Mr. D— first begun his career in London, as a surgeon, and was principally celebrated for the method of treating a certain popular disease, which introduced him to the knowledge of several young men of fortune, many of whom are now dead, or living only to bewail the fruits of their acquaintance. He very early declared himself the preceptor and guardian of youth. He relieved their necessities; he provided for their pleasures. What can young men wish for more? In that season of life, we are not apt to explore future consequences. *Cave diem*, is the motto of youth, and while the contingencies of the moment are filled up, the means are of little importance. Not so with the prudent, forestalling Mr. D—. The prospect of future gain had more allurements for him than the mere gratification of any transitory passion, and on this principle, he has systematically proceeded. The acquisition of £.100 per cent. was an object to him. To inconsiderate young men, immersed in dissipation and debauchery, it was none.

Persons, whose minds are fixed to one centre, are more likely to succeed in their speculations, than men of active, roving dispositions, which induce them to engage in a variety of pursuits. *Auri sacra fames*, is the exclusive passion

passion of our hero; nevertheless, although wholly engrossed by that object, his avidity has often led him into error; but if, in his multiplicity of speculative, pecuniary concerns, he has been often wrong, he has been still oftner right*. His connection with a very young Baronet, was extremely profitable; and it is to be hoped his present intimacy with a certain young Nobleman will not produce any disappointment or vexation, for if the above gentlemen may have contributed to *his* fortune, it is to his counsels and instructions, that *they* owe the exalted reputation they bear in the world. It is a maxim with our hero, never to check the exuberancies of youth;—that they should give full scope to their career, and it must strike every attentive observer, from the example to which we have alluded, if this salutary principle had been more universally followed up, what great benefits society would have derived from it. The family of these gentlemen must feel an immense weight of obligation to Mr. D——, under whose tuition their relations have so far surpassed all their competitors. It is somewhat singular, however, that while our hero is such a promoter of generosity, (we might add), of profusion in others, he should himself afford a striking instance of the most niggardly parsimony. True it is, we often admire in other men what we have not resolution to practise ourselves, and when we acquire any advantage from the subject of our admiration, we are still more candid in the acknowledgement of our own error, and more zealous in our admiration of their liberality. Such we conceive to be the sentiments of this gentleman. He has acted uniformly and consistently, and with great propriety has obtained the appellation of the YOUTH'S PRECEPTOR.

His attachment and indulgence to his young pupils is infinitely meritorious. Previous to the D—ke of Y—k's

* Mr. D—s has of late much enlarged the general scope of his speculations, has been for some time much engaged in the conduct of very extensive buildings with G——t, the noted Scotch u—f—r, and an Italian architect. One of their magnificent edifices, in P-c-d-lly, was not long since consumed by fire, certainly *through mere accident*, notwithstanding any malevolent reports to the contrary, which could only originate in the amazing frequency of similar conflagrations in this metropolis. One of these stupendous mansions is now partly rebuilt, and at once displays a striking monument of the elegant taste of the proprietors, and of the vanity of all human projects.

first journey to the continent, his R—l H—s had conceived a warm and tender attachment for L-dy L—de, who at thnt time was universally known by the name of Sm-th. His passion was so violent, that the separation caused the most painful emotions; however, it was necessary to obey parental injunctions, and the lovers were divided. During the D—ke's absence of several years, she had constantly cohabited with her present husband, as his m—fs, not always on the most pacific terms,

" *Ira amantium, integratio sunt amoris.*"

On his R—l H—s's return, he neglected not the earliest occasion of renewing his professions to the L-dy, and actually offered her *carte blanche*, on condition of her leaving the Baronet. She acted with uncommon reserve and prudence on the occasion, declaring the exalted sense she entertained of the honour conferred on her, by the declaration of such sentiments, but declined a final answer, under pretence of her obligations to Sir J—n, which required a previous consultation with him on the busineſſ. Mrs. S—th hath long aspired to the ambition of filling the *high and virtuous character* she now sustains, of being at once made a *L—dy*, and a m-d-ft w—n. She therefore seized this favourable occasion of triumphing over her friend's weakness, explaing the injustice she should offer to herself and family, if she resisted such flattering and advantageous proposals, which it was impossible for her to do, on any other terms, than his consenting to marry her. The intuitive sagacity and penetration of Mr. D—s had anticipated, during the period of this *virtuous connection*, what would one day happen, and in consequence thereof, had given a very few guineas, to receive a larger sum, in case of such an event. Sir J——n, on the first intimation of the Lady's intentions, flew to his *friend*, requesting his advice, and at the same time, intreated to be released from his contract. The *disinterested* Mr. D—s remonstrated on the subject, attempting to dissuade him from the alliance; but, at the same time, resisted all the intreaties and even tears of the B—t, to be delivered from his pecuniary obligation. Nay, he at length kindly relented, so far as respected the nuptials, acted as a father on the occasion, and presented him

him with the Lady's fair hand, at the altar, in St. George's church.

Mr. D—— has of late had a furious altercation with his old confederate, Mr. B—ck. Hostilities have commenced with unusual vigour, and time alone can unravel the result. Mutual suspicions of perfidy are entertained. Our hero has seceded from the old partnership, and established a F-ro Bank, in opposition; where he has been lately interrupted by the obtrusive visit of an officious magistrate. Great is the present contest between these redoubted champions, these former friends and associates.

When Greek meets Greek, then is the tug of war.

We cannot conclude this article, without expressing our unfeigned wishes, from a regard to the community, that these two *virtuous* friends, may be speedily reconciled on the old principles of reciprocal advantage, former differences forgotten, and a coalition effected on a beneficial and durable foundation.

EARL B—M—E.

THE eccentricities of this Nobleman have rendered him so popular and remarkable, that it would be useless to dwell on a character so notorious to all whom this pamphlet is likely to reach.

SIR JOHN L—DE.

AN OTHER elve of black D——. He also is too notorious, to require any elaborate description. From his first outset, he has uniformly set all decency at defiance, and braving decorum, he married a c-m——n p—t—e from the purlieus of St. Giles's; who, as well as himself, is now much in the good graces of a great p—n--ge,

p—n—ge, and the Baronet, although jealous, finds it his interest to submit to superior authority.

The Lady in question, reminds us of Nell in her fine cloaths, and seems wholly to have forgotten her original self. The neighbourhood of St. James's has erased all memory of Lewknors Lane and St. Giles's, and better would it be, had it erased their manners also; but, with the pride and insolence of a dutchess, she still retains the old leaven. Although she may have forgotten old Drury, and its footy-faced attendants, she cannot shake off thole habits so early acquired. Young men may still remember, when Captain O'B——ne visited a kitchen in King's Place, before our heroine was promoted to the dignity of a parlour guest, or to the honour of *seeing gentlemen*; nor was deemed worthy to be admitted to the Captain's embraces, till she had known the thorough cleansings of a warm bath, expressly ordered.

Under such patronage she received protection and favours; but the master, nor all the masters living, could reform the scholar. She was innately abandoned, and from hence we are to trace the Baronet's prepossession. Sympathy is the magnet that attracts; but the Lady's foibles have not such a noxious tendency at her husband's vices. We never knew a person, with so many bad, without any one good quality to atone in the least degree for them.

The mind of Sir J—— L——de is viciously constituted indeed. However strange it may appear, nothing delights him so much, as a tale of distress; and if it should happen that the unfortunate subject of it is a particular acquaintance of his own, the pleasure then becomes exquisite beyond idea.

It is painful to contemplate such monstrous depravity; yet it must be remembered, that the B-r—t is the most favoured and intimate friend of the h—r ap——t to the crown of E—l—d.

Noscitur ex sociis.

Earl of U—P—R O—s—RY.

T H E R E are men who possessing eminent talents, suffer them to rust in obscurity. The present Nobleman may be reckoned of this description; Lord O—s—ry is certainly a sensible well informed man; but whatever his merits may be, a knowledge of them is confined merely to the circle of his own private acquaintance, and he seems even desirous to conceal them from the public. Many years ago, when David Hume was *Charge des Affaires* at Paris, he pronounced him the most promising young Nobleman of all the English then abroad; yet he has represented the county of B——d in several Parliaments, and never given any specimen of his abilities further than as a mover or secunder of those fulsome addresses, which degrade the dignity of the senate, and are equally dishonourable to either party; to those who offer, and to him who consents to receive such flimsy compositions of adulation and absurdity.—The countenance of this Nobleman denotes a cold phlegmatic disposition, which we believe to be his true character; nevertheless, he has occasionally relaxed from his natural severity, by repeated acts of liberal indulgence conferred on an extravagant brother*.—He once seemed very much devoted to the pleasures of the turf, where he united the *utile dulci*, being uncommonly successful. His stoical apathy qualified him to succeed eminently in that line, and we are therefore surprised that he has of late years wholly given it up, which we must ascribe to disgust, at the many infamous characters introduced into the society. At present he lives chiefly in retirement, making London his residence only during the months that Parliament is sitting, where his conduct is wholly guided by his friend and relation Mr. F—x, in whom he reposes implicit confidence. Had this latter gentleman continued in office, Lord O—s—ry would have been a British Peer, but his M——y is reported to have set his negative on any addition to the Peerage nominated by that Administration, and perhaps such an exclusion forms its most brilliant panegyric.

* Col. F—p—t—k.

It is natural to suppose a good brother to be a kind and hospitable neighbour, and we have heard nothing to contradict the presumption. He has been long married to the divorced lady of the Duke of G—f—n, and notwithstanding some few busy tales of scandal, we believe that they have always enjoyed a considerable portion of domestic happiness.

On the whole, Lord O—f—y shines a resplendent constellation, amidst the generality of contagious meteors we have already noticed; and if not distinguished by any superior excellence on the general scale of humanity, yet in the narrow sphere to which we confine our remarks he gains infinitely by comparison.

Mr. P—T—N.

THE name of P—t—n has been long familiar to Newmarket, and this gentleman derives, as it were, a kind of hereditary claim to Jockey pre-eminence. His father was keeper of the K—g's stables, and to the very last, manifested an attachment to the sports of the turf, and his son has no less predilection for the amusement. The characters of men are formed by the manners of the age and country in which they live, so that this gentleman possesses many advantages of politeness and address, unknown to his predecessor.

Tommy P—t—n is truly a well-bred, agreeable, good-humoured man, and though not endowed with any very brilliant accomplishments, yet he possesses that kind of abilities which is admirably calculated to conduct him pleasantly and successfully through life.

We have already had occasion to remark, that no quality is more captivating than what is called good nature. It is no less happy for him who possesses it, than it is agreeable to those who fall within his society. Mr. P—t—n always appears cheerful, and hence he is extremely popular amongst his acquaintance.

He was, during a considerable time, the *cher ami* of the celebrated Mrs. M—y, and we believe he has a

natural son, now an officer in the Horse Guards but whether by the above lady or not, we are ignorant. Although he has now passed his grand climacteric, Tommy still retains a penchant for the sex.—He has lived many years very domestically with a lady, whose name is unknown to us, but of whose personal charms it is not in our power to speak very favourably; nevertheless her admirer is said to indulge occasional fits of jealousy, not altogether consistent with that equality of temper, which in him we have been accustomed to witness.—Contemporary with Prince B—by, J-mes, Lord C—t—t, &c. he has infinitely the advantage over them, from his natural pleasant disposition, and we have sincere satisfaction in recording the praises of a good natured man.

SIR C. B——y.

THE further we explore this Augean stable, the deeper we are plunged in the filth of it. On whatever side we turn, with few exceptions, we either behold a general profligacy of character, or a narrow contracted selfishness of disposition, no less odious and disgusting.

We have been long accustomed to behold this gentleman in the regions of fashion. He has endeavoured to distinguish himself in various pursuits, as a man of gallantry, an orator, and a jockey; but his pretensions to general knowledge are very confined. His amours are chiefly devoted to nocturnal perambulations through the most populous streets, and his eloquence is of such a nature, as rather to drive away, than to attract an audience, his parliamentary essays being chiefly remarkable for their somniferous effects, if perchance any auditors remain to subject themselves to their influence; but, as a jockey, in every sense of the word, his *merit* must be acknowledged; whether in matching his horses, or selling them, no person displays more skill and ingenuity than Sir C. B——y.

B—y. The convenient situation of B—n*, within fourteen miles of Newmarket, is peculiarly adapted to his interest and practice. Lavish in the encomiums on his stud, many a young N—b—n has been the dupe of his eloquence on these occasions, and many are the advantages the worthy Baronet has derived from thence.

Early in life, he conceived a violent passion for a celebrated beauty in those days, whose charms are said to have made impression on the breast of a great P—e, not remarkable for the exquisiteness of his feelings. With this distinguished lady he connected himself in marriage; but the physical powers of poor B—y were far inadequate to the expectation of the blooming salacious L—x. Disappointment in that particular, where all her desires were centered, created disgust on her part, and on the night of a masquerade, given at H—d House by her late sister, L—y H—d, she fled from her husband, into the arms of an eager and impassioned lover, every way qualified to gratify her warmest and most extravagant wishes. It is not possible to describe the effect which this desertion produced on the feelings of our hero. Generally cold and phlegmatic, his misery was the more acute, from his whole soul being wrapt up in this fair object. The pleasures of the turf no longer yielded any charms to him; even Bellario†, in the zenith of his glory, the favoured animal of his darling w—e, became intolerable to his sight. The senate, where he had already made one vain attempt ‡, no longer served as a spur to his ambition, or stimulated his exertions to a second effort; his occupation was gone, “ Farewel the neighing steed, the shrill trump, and ear-piercing fife. || His heart was wounded and the dreadful feelings of his soul produced an apparent alteration in his whole frame. Thus circumstanced, *en dernier ressort*, a continental excursion was judged expedient, where a change of scene might tend to obliterate the memory of the prize he had lost.

* The Baronet's country seat.

† A favourite Race-horse.

‡ When a young man, he rose to make a motion in the House on a particular occasion, but was suddenly so overpowered, as to be obliged to sit down without accomplishing his purpose; which gave rise to a most pointed and witty epigram from the late ingenious C—s T—h—d.

|| Sir C—s B—y was at this time an officer in the S—k Militia.

The dissipation of Paris, and the serener climate of Italy, operated as a charm to dispel the grief of our unhappy lover, and after two years absence, he returned to England evidently recruited in health and spirits. He soon resumed his former occupations, and although never able to succeed in his efforts at Westminster, he still retains his rank at Newmarket, and we believe him to be perpetual P—si—t of the Jockey Club. He has been connected for a long time with an amiable woman, a peasant's daughter, in the neighbourhood of B——n, afterwards Lady S——h's, servant, who, since her lady's retreat, has served the B——t occasionally in all capacities—one day the companion of his footmen in the hall, the next the favoured mistress of her lover in the parlour; but we believe, that she has now obtained a permanent establishment, and is invariably a parlour guest. Certainly her general conduct is so amiable, that she deserves every indulgence and protection that can be shewn her; and we have no reason (making allowance for his nocturnal rambles) to believe her friend ungrateful. Sir C——s is now sunk into the vale of years, but he appears to pursue his old vicious courses with as much eagerness and zeal as any of his aged cotemporaries.

MR. W—ST—LL.

ALE and tobacco were the original delights of Mr. W—ll. Dragged from his natural element, he now exhibits a truly grotesque appearance in the circles of fashion. He is an old member of the Jockey Club, and has been a considerable time admitted into the society at Br——kes's; but he still retains his original habits, having more the appearance of a downright Yorkshire boor, than the manners of those with whom he of late occasionally associates. His accent is vulgar and provincial, nor are his sentiments more refined. When business on the turf calls him away from his rural retreat, where he still indulges all his natural propensities, he strikes us as

an object of pity; and in the streets of London he appears almost as singular and eccentric, as even poor John Moody, *outre* as the character is represented on the English stage. Mr. W——l would not deserve these imperfections to be recorded, could we perceive any good point in his character to compensate for those unavoidable disadvantages which we have stated. We might in that case compassionate the vulgarity of his manners, and it would be cruel to hold them forth to public ridicule. Truth, however, must not be dispensed with, and the fact is, this gentleman's mind is no less torpid, than his outward deportment is ridiculous and contemptible. We believe him to be in decent rather than in affluent circumstances. Nevertheless, his fortune is very superior to what might be supposed from his manner of life, as we are ignorant of any expence in which he indulges himself, except it may be in a rooted attachment to a fat greasy housekeeper, the amiable engrosser of his tender passions. Applications have frequently been made to his purse in behalf of distressed objects, and he never once betrayed a symptom of charity or benevolence.

SIR C. D—v—RS.

IT affords a kind of negative satisfaction, when discovering little to praise or admire, there does not appear much to censure or condemn. When a person inherits no very great resources either from nature or fortune, it were unjust to expect any very liberal accomplishments. —The character of an English country gentleman is almost worn out, and every attempt to keep up or revive one, so useful and meritorious, is intitled to our warmest expectation. The yeomanry of England is nearly extinct. Persons who inherit through their ancestors, from £.400 to £.1000 per annum, who formerly passed their time in conviviality amongst their tenants in the country, employed in making themselves of use in their respective situations, now consume their estates in the most dissipated pursuits in the capital of the kingdom. In Sir C. D—v—rs, we behold a contrary instance. With a clear

clear estate of £2000 a year, he is attached to the duties of his station. He is open, hospitable, and sincere; with a temper rather too hasty and tyrannical over those dependent on him. In his neighbourhood he is beloved, and he seldom or ever leaves it, unless when called to London by Parliamentary business. In politics, he appears like many others, more devoted to men than things. The sanction of the leader of a party (provided he possesses his confidence) to any measure, however at first repugnant to his opinion and principles, is sufficient to obtain the vote of Sir C. D.—; but we are not from hence directly to impeach his independence. An entire faith in the judgment and integrity of that gentleman, to whom so many look up with equal reliance, may induce him to sacrifice his own sentiments to what he deems superior authority; nor do we believe that the gentleman in question would acquiesce from any unworthy motive. We have endeavoured, in general terms, to be just to his merits, but having no particular excellence to dwell on, we cannot extend our praises further.

MR. N—TH—Y.

NATURE has been uncommonly sparing of her bounty to this gentleman; neither for personal or mental accomplishments has he the least obligation to her. His own innate dullness and stupidity is still heightened by incessant habitual intoxication. A determined votary to Bacchus, he is a stranger to all that gaiety and mirth inspired by him, and is neither more nor less than, what, in plain English, we call a downright sot. The parties which he frequents are all of a similar cast, and one of the principal members of this society * has lately paid the debt of nature, a victim to his fatal ignominious passion. During their meetings, no brilliant effusions of fancy, no flashes of merriment to set the table in a roar, ever flew from them, and wine instead of exhilarating, seems

* Lord C—v—n.

only

only to have benumbed their senses.—Example has no influence over persons of this description, or Mr. N——y would be warned by the premature fate of his friend.

We should not have dragged him from his insignificance, had not his disposition been as sordid and contracted as his address is vulgar and disgusting.—A very ample fortune contributes to no other purpose, than to defray the expences of his filthy debauchery; and if we are to judge from appearances, he will quickly follow his friend into another world, without leaving behind a single instance of virtue or liberality in expiation of his faults in this.

SIR F. S—D—SH,

DIFFERS little in character from the gentleman abovementioned. They have in a great degree the same habits, and are addicted to the same low pleasures. Considered altogether, he is somewhat less unpleasing in his manners, but in every other respect we can make no distinction.

COL. T——N.

VENI, VIDI, VICI.

WHEN this gentleman first returned from America, he thought to make a sudden and durable impression on the minds of his countrymen, by an incessant relation of his extraordinary achievements. His countrymen were less sensible to his merit than he imagined. They did not listen with that attention or admiration that the gallant Colonel expected. The exploits of a pandour, a partizan, are ranked in the lowest degree of military merit;

rit; and it had been more prudent, on his part, to have omitted some instances of his *valour*, which have been thought rather tending to perfidy and cruelty. The Colonel however, is a man of strict honour; and woe to him who doubts it! He is likewise member for Liverpool, and a noted parliamentary *speechifier*; having particularly distinguished himself in that cause, so congenial with his own heart, the rights of power, and usurpation against the rights of men. He is the strenuous, determined advocate of the Slave Trade, and hence, he aspires to future success at Liverpool.

His connection with, and obligations to the celebrated Mrs. R——n are well known; but gratitude is not the characteristic virtue of persons of this cast, and the lady has infinite reason to lament the origin of her acquaintance with the Colonel.

P——E B——TH——BY.

IN mockery and derision, this gentleman, from his ridiculous vanity and pride, has obtained the soubriquet of Prince*, and he appears to inherit all those *virtues and accomplishments* which appertain generally to that exalted rank. A life consumed in the same dull round of vapid amusements, and profligate debauchery, that almost entirely engrosses the time of our men of fashion, must yield painful sensations to a reflecting mind; but persons of this cast are, for the most part, so destitute of sensibility, or so wrapt up in arrogance and self-sufficiency, as to be incapable of any sensible reflection whatever. No character in itself can be more despicable, or from example, be less productive of good to the community, than that of him whom we distinguish as a man of fashion. Mr. B——th——y lives wholly within this circle, and seems to consider plebeian rank as of a species distinct, and formed only to move in obedience and subordination to aristocratic insolence. They who are only ambitious of this vain

* Nickname.

and

and stupid distinction, are always as deficient in understanding, as in manners, they are insolent and presumptuous. Pride and vanity are certainly striking features in the present portrait; nevertheless, gaming is another passion that disputes the pre-eminence with them. Devoted to deep play, in the summer months when society is in a manner dissolved within the fashionable circles, Mr. B——y, even at this advanced period of his life, thinks it no inconvenience to undertake a journey to Spa, merely to gratify this favourite passion, and fatal that it has not proved to him, appears to us extraordinary indeed, for to do him justice, he does not seem to know those dexterous arts and manœuvres, practised by so many of the rapacious sharks that surround him. We conceive, however, that his fortune is somewhat impaired, although he still contrives to support the style in which he originally started.

We have been strictly impartial in the little we have said of the P—e, and they who know him best, will acknowledge the truth of our report.

L—D G. H. C—V—D—H.

THE character of the C——sh family, throughout all its branches, is uniform. Cold and phlegmatic: of unsullied honour and integrity: Lord G—e differs in no one point from the rest, unless that he may, by the force of example, be in some degree more tinctured with the prevailing follies of the age. When very young, he discovered a penchant for gaming, which has never forsaken him, nor do we believe this fortune has been materially injured by it, the coolness of his temper preventing those excesses, that might otherwise have been fatal.

We do not believe that the mines of Peru could seduce this nobleman to commit a dishonourable act; but, if his soul despairs injustice and dishonour, it is not sufficiently warm and animated to feel the exquisite delight of pure natural sensibility, or from thence, to be roused to the duties of an amiable and extensive benevolence. Indo-

lence, rather than want of generosity, we are willing to believe the cause of this omission; but if he was less slothful and indifferent, he would be far more amiable and useful.

The liberal, noble spirit of the Lady united to the head of this family, whose charities are universal, and whose benignity of heart is announced by the beaming graces of the most ingenuous, lovely, impassioned countenance*, ought to have operated as an example to persons of similar rank: but, alas! they are for the most part irreclaimable.—Her lively, mercurial temper was also admirably calculated to correct the phlegm of the family, with which she is connected: but fire and water cannot assimilate; and it grieves us to hear, that a separation has actually taken place.

If we have been under the necessity of exposing the vices of others, how happy should we be, had we eloquence and abilities to describe the various excellencies of this charming woman. Who can regard her tender assiduity, her affectionate attachment, her anxious solicitude and attention to her sister, during her dreadful malady, without feeling the utmost admiration? If there are persons unaffected by such conduct, they must have hearts of adamant.

The cold, unfeeling mind may condemn her warmth of temper, as hurrying, on many occasions, to extremes, not properly belonging to feminine reserve; but sensibility, like hers, disdains the fastidious delicacy of etiquette or punctilio, when the interest and happiness of a friend are at stake; nor suffers any consideration to restrain her from pursuing all possible means of promoting both one and the other. Let us therefore consider such trifling peccadillos, as serving only to heighten the general beauty of her character. All her foibles and levities originate in a purity of heart, and a consciousness of her own innocence, which makes her overlook those forms of ceremony and restraint which prudence may require, but of

* When the Duchess of D——e made her first appearance at Derby races, after her marriage: an honest rustic, on her Grace being pointed out to him, in a kind of rapturous astonishment, exclaimed, "that were he G-d A-m—ty, he would make her queen of h——n.

which

which, even the strictest observance is not always sure to stop the breath of calumny.

The D—s of D—e reflects pure, genuine lustre on her rank, by a practice of all the shining virtues that adorn humanity, and are beneficial to mankind; and we only lament that so bright an example is so rarely followed.

We have been led into this digression, from an irresistible desire to attempt, however inadequately, a description of one, whose virtues and accomplishments command universal praise and admiration; and shall now return to the immediate subject of this chapter.

Lord G—ge is no economist in the pursuit of his pleasures.—The turf and the chace are both followed up by him with eagerness, and at an expence that betrays no niggardly parsimony. He likewise has been much devoted to amorous pursuits. During several years he cohabited with Mrs. A—d, at present the amiable friend of Mr. F—x, and his conduct towards her was generous and noble. A liberal settlement was made previous to their separation, and the connection was only dissolved in consequence of a convenient and profitable marriage with a lady, who, we are happy to observe, is another pattern to her sex. We believe his L—p perfectly happy in his domestic situation, nor can it well be otherwise, when a deserving and accomplished woman takes such uncommon pains to secure his happiness.

SIR W——Y A—T—N.

IT often occurs, that we discover what is called good temper in persons, which does not arise from any fixed principle of benevolence and philanthropy, but from a certain insensibility, which feels no predilections or disgusts, and that yields a sort of affable smile and condescension to all, when in fact, self is the only object that engrosses every care. Urbanity on such principles, however

however agreeable it may be, is no otherwise entitled to approbation. J—k M—n—rs passes in the world for what is called the best tempered man in it; yet we all know avarice to be the base principle which fills up each corner of his soul,—the cancer that corrodes his breast all day, and disturbs his rest by night. We do not mean to insinuate, that Sir W——y is a person altogether of this description, but only to distinguish between this sort of easy unruffled temper, and the solid virtue, ~~hence~~ violence.

This gentleman does not appear to have a very comprehensive mind, and his chief merit consists in that easy disposition we have mentioned. Recovered from the irregularities of his youth, which was never marked by any traits of generosity, he labours, at present, with infinite zeal, both by application to his Bank at F—o, and unremitting attention to Newmarket, to increase that wealth which by a fortunate concurrence of unexpected events, has devolved upon him. In his gaming career, he has been particularly successful, and in this, he verifies the old adage: Good luck at cards, worse luck in a wife, for we are afraid that, at home, he is not quite so happy, although his natural apathy may on this occasion be of infinite service to him. Persons of quick and delicate feelings are subject to eternal vexations, from which persons of the above description are exempt. Sir W——y A—n knows no such severe mortification in life, as an unlucky run against him at gaming. There, indeed, his temper is not always proof against the uncertainty of chances, and a loss at play is the only loss that can agitate the otherwise uniform serenity of his mind. He has not a heart to feel the ardour of affection, or the zeal of friendship, so that he is consequently out of the reach of suffering by any froward incident, resulting from those endearing sentiments. Nevertheless, the Baronet is popular amongst his acquaintance, who, for the most part are persons of little discernment, and, above all, he is distinguished by the favour and attentions of our elegant P——s, who has lately taken up a new favourite, worthy to be included in the class we have already had occasion to mention no other, than that *chaste, virtuous chold*, from N—th B—t—n, Mr. Cu—n—h—me, who is also very high in the good graces of Mrs. F—h—b—t. We congratulate his

his R——l. H——— is on this valuable acquisition to his society, and trust that Mr. C———me will soon be appointed trea——r of his household, or to some place of equal confidence and responsibility, for which, from his singular probity and honour he is peculiarly adapted.

THE aristocracy of this country justifies the above passage. The most affluent fortunes are squandered or consumed in the idlest and often criminal pursuits—in profligate schemes of sensual pleasure, or personal ambition, and in attempts, alas! too successful, to corrupt the inferior order of the people, to the end of promoting the vilest and most selfish purposes; while even in this overgrown luxurious city, the passenger is daily annoyed by numberless spectacles of want and wretchedness, that extort from every humane breast sensations of sympathy and horror. If such disgraceful instances of a weak and barbarous police were not every where visible, let the arrogant and unfeeling noble direct his steps towards those receptacles of misery, our gaols. There he will learn, to the scandal of humanity, how many dreadful victims of want and despair annually perish through deprivation of those indispensable necessities, without which life can not be supported. There he will behold the terrible effects of poverty, working to every species of calamity—to vice, despair, and madness. Let not the iron breast of corrupt prosperity plead in extenuation of such neglect, on ignorance of such scenes; and let not a Dr——k of B———d or N——k stand excused, through a false pretence, that they are not competent to relieve every species of human misery, or on all occasions to enquire into its existence.

istence. Let such wretched, cruel pretexts be scouted. It is by the too general adoption of these barbarous principles, that such horrors exist. It is their duty, an *indispensable obligation* on them, to make every enquiry, to discover the real objects of compassion, to pierce into the mansions of woe, and administer the balm of comfort and relief. The opposite doctrine, however, is so convenient and prevailing, that the evil would be boundless, if a D—ss of D—v—l—e did not occasionally appear, extending the powers of mercy, as a remedy to it. For what other purpose, than the purpose of doing good, can the possession of such unbounded wealth and advantages be admitted? Shall the no—m—n in question be suffered with impunity to squander vast property in supporting the extravagant vices of parasitical buffoons and prostitutes, of the lowest and most vicious description; while he withholds the least mite from meritorious objects, sinking under the burthen of penury and misfortune? Let him reform his conduct, and forsaking the brothels of vice and infamy, visit with tenderness and compassion the hospitals of disease and captivity. Then, and not till then, ought he to escape the rod of the severest reprobation.

We cannot however, inspire sensibility into a flinty heart, and from a long habitual system of intoxication, the Duke of N—k seems now sunk into a state of obtuse stupefaction, that threatens a speedy and total lethargy:—Vain, we fear, will be all attempts to rouse him from it, or to awaken a sense of duty in a breast naturally void of sympathy and benevolence.
With such admirable talents, his Grace is (albeit) a patriot—zealous, determined patriot; and his patriotism consists in corrupting the purity of election. This *constitutional* Peer evinces his enthusiasm for the constitution, by an inverse mode of proceeding; by the most daring unconstitutional acts; by a continual interference at elections for Members of Parliament, contrary to the first leading principles of the constitution he professes to reverence. Let us, however, be just, and setting the darling constitution aside, develope the real motive of his Grace's zeal and ardour on these occasions:—A lover of that kind of jollity which then prevails, so congenial with those habits, peculiar and grateful to his mind, it gives him

him an excellent opportunity of indulging them, and that, at no other expence, than the expence of his own purse and *constitution*, which suffers at least equally with the constitution of this country.

In considering the character of the person under our review, involuntary reflections obtrude themselves upon us.—The injustice or blindness of fortune, in prostituting her favour on one whose swinish manners inspire disgust, and where sordid filthy debauchery excite aversion and abhorrence.

L—D V—C—T ST—M—T.

THIS northern P—r has not the honour to be a member of the Jockey Club, but he composes part of that harlequin motley opposition, from which such miracles were expected. Distinguished by the splendid embassies, which he filled with so much *credit to our national hospitality**, his diplomatic science is acknowledged by all, and his genius is so comprehensive, that no person can vie with him in experience of all the forms and usages of Parliament. He inherits a kind of *hereditary claim* to the respect and affection of this country, from those glorious sentiments of *liberty*, so uniformly inculcated by his venerable uncle, during the long period that he presided in our Court of K—g's B—ch; and that he is equally inspired by the same fervent enthusiasm, must be apparent to all, from the political creed which he judged proper to deliver on the first day of this session of Parliament, where such veneration for that palladium of freedom, the Liberty of the Press, was so elegantly and forcibly expressed—Opinions from such high and *disinterested* authority, flowing must have due weight; therefore, when the public are informed by his L—p with all possible solemnity, in his senator-

* When Lord St—m—t was our Ambassador at Paris, it was his invariable practice, as soon as the Se—ch repast was finished, to call for coffee, and dismiss his guests; a custom not so agreeable to English conviviality.

cal capacity, that the writings which have tended to vindicate the principles of the French Revolution, and to support the rights of man, in opposition to the doctrine of tyranny and oppression, are nothing but the paroxysms of a disturbed romantic imagination*, and loudly call for legislative interference: when the public hear similar language, from such a distinguished character, confirmed and strengthened by a coincidence of sentiment in one of his M——y's principal S——y's of S——e, they may anticipate with propriety, that some salutary restraint will be imposed, to check the exuberances of liberty, flowing from its most noble and sacred palladium.

Seriously speaking, the n——c P—— in question springs from a family where the sentiments of liberty are thinly scattered—from a family that has invariably and zealously defended despotic principles of government, and whose prejudices have become rooted by the force of habit and education. No man can, rationally be admitted a judge in his own cause; therefore, the bold *positive ipse dixit* of an interested individual bears no weight, and the whole tenor of this N——n's political life intitles him to none.

Other men of more candour and diffidence than his Lordship, differing in opinion from him, are become languid and irresolute in their conduct, from the danger they imagine to exist in all innovation; they conceive the transition from error to truth, may produce great disorders to society; and that seems one principal reason, why men of consummate wisdom, but perhaps from false policy, have been afraid to attempt a too sudden change in the opinions of men, however vicious those opinions might be.

Nothing can appear to a rational mind more strange and preposterous, than that the interests of a people should be less attended to than the interests of a S——n and his N——ty. Yet on every occasion, the mouth of aristocracy is open, to proclaim the honour and dignity of the crown, while the real majesty of the people is never mentioned. It is wonderful indeed, that in nations the longest civilized, the art of government has made so little improvement; but the people have been deluded by the

* Vide his Lordship's Speech.

artifices and imposition of those they have been taught to consider as their superiors, interested to work on their credulity, by preaching the excellency of those governments, whereon their own exclusive privileges depend.

The most infallible criterion of judgment is undoubtedly that which is formed on the connection between causes and effects. If, therefore, this position be admitted, (and it appears a perfect truism) there is visible no very striking evidence of the excellency of the British Constitution; at least it displays none in its present mutilated and deformed state; and every wise man who asserts or seriously imagines, that it is so perfect as to admit of no improvement, must be a supporter of paradox, and it would be a waste of time to contend in argument with him. The pretended origin of sovereign power is blasphemous;—its principles must necessarily be in a great degree vicious, unless so tempered and compressed, as to render it conducive to general happiness. That is the great object of life, and from the defects of governments, a greater portion of the human race is miserable.

The splendid nonsense and eccentric rhapsodies of Mr. B—ke may assimilate better with his Lordship's feelings and understanding, than the sound logical truths of a Locke, or the mathematical demonstrations of Newton himself.

We could wish, therefore, before we dismiss this article, to impress strongly on the reader's mind, the absurdity of yielding attention, much less confidence, to persons essentially interested in the final termination of this contest. The most zealous advocates on the aristocratic side of the question are men of that description; and if there exists a person who, judging from the whole tenor of L—d S—'s political life, can seriously believe him capable of surrendering considerable personal advantages, to the end of promoting the general interest, (to use his Lordship's own words) his imagination must be disturbed and romantic indeed.

In private life, his politeness and hospitality are no less conspicuous, than his public principles are liberal and patriotic.

In the year 1780, when his house was violently besieged and menaced with destruction by the rioters, a captain of the — regiment received orders to march to its protection;

tion; when after having, with his men, made every exertion (and with success) during the whole night, to shield it from destruction, in the morning he received a chilling verbal message from his Lordship, that if he wanted any refreshment, he would find it in the house-keeper's-room. The proud Scot, who affects to build such implicit faith on the virtue of birth and titles, (and so far he is right, possessing himself no intrinsic merit) was probably ignorant, that this young officer* is the son of an Irish N——n, and nearly allied to several of the most ancient families in this kingdom, not regarding his rank in the army alone, a sufficient passport to the honour of a seat at his own table.

We cannot dismiss this worthy Thane without expressing a wish that he, as well as all others of a similar cast, were exiled from this fat, fertile soil, to the bleak and barren region from whence he originally came.

Mr. H——y V——n.

IT is the privilege of a man of fashion to be exempt from those ties which have an influence over persons of meaner condition. Hence, the bonds of consanguinity in the higher circles are loosened. This gentleman is the nephew of old D—k V——n, whose portrait we have given, but there exists no more sympathy or kindred affection, than if there was not the least distant alliance between them. At Newmarket, often has he been seen in eager contest with his uncle, each exerting every nerve to obtain an advantage over the other, although age and experience generally prevailed. Mr. H. V——n, notwithstanding the vast latitude in which he indulged himself, being not altogether the most successful jockey on the turf; he had an interest, however, in wishing to appear so, and thus, at H——t——n*, he imposed on the credulity of his country neighbours, in recounting the wonderful success and glory of his Newmarket achievements. The ob-

* The Hon. C——le C——w——de, son of V——c——t C——w——de.

* His Country seat.

ject of these extraordinary relations was a loan, and the circumstances attending this loan were of such a particular nature, as to induce the necessity of immediate departure from this kingdom.

Our adventurer was always celebrated for an uncommon brilliancy and fertility of invention, in mingling the marvellous in all his narrations; hence, he relates with singular effect, his miraculous voyages and exploits during a twelve years absence from his native country; during that short period we are to understand, that he has penetrated into every part of the habitable globe, and even into parts before deemed impervious to human efforts; how he has traversed the icy mountains of Canada, and the buring sands of Egypt; of his imminent escapes both by sea and land; of battles bravely, hardly fought*, in which the palm of victory was decreed to him; of his astonishing skill in directing the Spanish artillery against the fort of Algiers*, and the no less amazing services that he rendered his own country at the memorable siege of Gibraltar†.

All this to hear, would his *Desdemona* ‡ seriously incline, till at length, for his romantic gallantry, she paid him with herself.

Mr. V——n is now, after all his perils and escapes, returned home, and from thence, we are authorised to believe, and to hope, that he has settled every difference with his friend and neighbour, and that the hospitalities of H——t——n will be once more revived.

* Othello.

* Mr. V——n informs us of the public thanks he received from the Spanish General, and afterwards from the King of Spain himself, for the vast skill and gallantry he displayed on that occasion, where he served as volunteer in the Spanish army

† Lord Heathfield honoured him with the same distinguished acknowledgments, for the superior knowledge, judgment, and consummate bravery, which he employed in the service of his country, at the siege of Gibraltar, although by some unaccountable neglect or defect of memory, his Lordship forgot to mention our hero in his dispatches transmitted to Government.

‡ The present M——g——v——e of A——p——ch, with whom of Mr. V——n made the voyage up the Crimea; an account of which, her H——s has published, to the entertainment and instruction of her numerous readers; and we are informed Mr V——n is likewise preparing for the press, an elaborate history of his incredible voyages and adventures; a history that must prove equally interesting, from the marvelous and romantic incidents it will necessarily contain.

SIR F. E——N.

A VETERAN of the Jockey Club; but the Baronet's genius never aspired to distinction, and through every department of life, he has always moved in a very subordinate and narrow sphere. If Sir F——k is not wholly dead to ambition, it consists in a pitiful desire of excelling and distinguishing himself at a country race. Amongst the inferior order of jockeys, in his neighbourhood at Epsom and Guildford, he passes for what is called a *knowing one*, and is thought to have acquired a particular and curious method of making a horse sink, while measuring for a *give and take plate*. This kind of exotic game gratifies every feeling of Sir F——k, and is the only ambition to which he aspires. In short, a character like this, is in every sense so insignificant, that it were tedious to dwell longer upon it. His present appearance announces a speedy journey to that bourne whence no traveller returns, and as his life was unrespected, so his death will be unlamented.

MR. P — TT.

THE virtues of men are demonstrable only by their actions, and many first rate genius rusts in obscurity, and dies unknown, merely for want of a powerful patron, to open an occasion of displaying it.

Not so with this person; he commenced his political career under the most auspicious omens, and neglected not the happy opportunity of attacking an unpopular and beaten Minister, when the popularity and name of his father were a tower of strength, and the nation was groaning under an incredible accumulation of taxes, in consequence of measures, which had his father's counsels been attended to, would never here been adopted.

Mr.

Mr. Pitt was too keen and penetrating not to avail himself to the utmost of his peculiarly fortunate situation. Elected into Parliament, without expecting it;—disappointed at Cambridge; nor for the present, indulging his hopes further, he became a Member of Parliament, by the most lucky chance*, at a critical period when every thing concurred to favour the talents and ambition, by which he was certainly inspired.

In his first essay as an orator, he surprised the assembly in which his oration was delivered; and the author of these pages remembers to have heard the opinion of a gentleman, who cannot be supposed prejudiced on that side of the question, which was, that it surpassed any thing he had ever heard from his father, even in the meridian of his glory. Far be it from us to acquiesce in such opinion, but it certainly was that of one whose judgment when not warped, was intitled to deference and respect. In his maiden speeches he displayed that arrogance and self-sufficiency which have never forsaken him. Elated by the success of a first attempt, he immediately quitted the subaltern post, and boldly asserted his claim to pre-eminence, signifying that he would never accept an inferior office in any administration. The adventurous youth was well instructed, as the event has fully proved. Disastrous circumstances paved the way to his present situation, and the name of his father, seconded by a series of extraordinary events, served to fix the fortune of his son. Pledging himself never to relinquish the duty he felt incumbent on him, of exerting all his powers to effect a reform of Parliament, and the catchword Liberty ever foremost in his mouth, while the sentiment was ever the most remote and foreign from his heart, when his confidential and appointed instructors knew his heart and principles better, he deluded the country into an opinion

* He was chosen for Appleby, an aristocratic borough of Lord L—d—le, through the recommendation of old K—t—k, who had casually met him at the late Duke of R—t—d's. Old K—t—k, when afterwards in the last stage of distreſs, labouring under the complicated misery of age and sickness, applied to Mr. P—t for some partial relief, when this founder of his fortune received a cold anſwer from Dr. P—t—m—n, that Mr. P—t was very sorry it was not in his power to oblige him.—Mr. P—t was never heard of at Appleby, till the day on which he was elected.

† Mr. Rigby.

of his honesty, and afterwards betrayed it. Mr. P—t is indebted for his present situation to the people, and he has (like many others) betrayed them. He has submitted to the rod, and to that superior executive discipline which renders the boasted constitution of this country a mere farce, because it absorbs the two other parts of it.

Could it have been imagined that a young man (young men are commonly generous and high spirited) would so soon have forgot the hand that raised him? He was the pledged advocate and friend of the people. They had confidence in his pledges, and on their support he was exalted. To consider this man while a candidate for popular trust and his conduct afterwards, what a wretched contrast does it display! Let it not be urged that a Minister's office is arduous and difficult. The pretext is inadmissible. He acquired his situation on the firm of liberal and popular principles: It is the most infamous heresy in him to have abandoned them.

The future welfare and glory of this country is acknowledged by all its true friends, to depend on a reform in the representation of Parliament.—At present, the whole government is vested in the executive power which virtually commands the other two departments. Mr. P—t, previous to his elevation, maintained a similar doctrine; and to suppose a Minister, omnipotent as he is, incapable of effecting a purpose, when he is sincere and zealous in his exertions to do so, is a paradox: but Mr. P—t is the slave, the tool of superior force. He departs from the principles of his illustrious ancestor, who never would crouch to the authority of any sovereign or cabinet, when militating against his own more enlightened judgment. He resisted and generally succeeded, or if baffled, resigned. His son pursues far different maxims, and for ever over-ruled, still clings to the douceurs and infamy of office; for infamous it most surely is, to practise measures his own sentiments condemn. Never did man accede to power on more just or noble principles, and never did man apostatize from them with less reserve. He forgets all obligations, and when he might avail himself of the occasion of honourably fulfilling them, in advancing the liberty and happiness of his country, from the glorious example that we behold in France, he eternally launches out into vapid unmeaning encomiums on the boasted excellencies

cellencies of the British constitution, instead of adhering to his solemn contract, of exerting all his influence and abilities to reform its blemishes. The happy moment was neglected, and extraordinary armaments prepared under the falsest and most chimerical pretences, in order to distract the minds of the people, and to divert their thoughts from the grand constitutional object—the advancement of national liberty; so that the observation of a popular writer* is strictly just, that in reviewing the present administration, it would appear as wars were conjured up for the purpose of raising taxes, not taxes for supporting wars.

Were it necessary to expatiate on what is so generally known and felt,—the apostacy from those popular doctrines, to which he owes his fortune and elevation, we would only mention the scandalous extension of excise laws during the space of this administration, that commenced under the auspicious promise of freedom, which have been carried to an enormous excess, that the author of the system himself †, the father of corruption, the model of patriotism, as Mr. Burke describes him, would never have dared to think of.

We write not under the influence of prejudice, nor do we think it of the least importance who is minister of this country, unless determined to resist, and in consequence, reduce the influence of the crown, by a reform of parliament; till that period arrives, the system will be invariably the same, as we have hitherto beheld it. Mr. D—d—s, the k—n's friend—the confidential adviser of Lord N—th, has uniformly pursued the plan laid down. He is now himself the principal machine that moves the wheels of g—t, the friend and secret counsellor of him who subverted the administration of his friend, Lord N—th. Can it then be wondered at, that he has debauched his young pupil, and that the old corrupt leaven still exists.

The public life of Mr. P—tt will afford no room for praise to the faithful and just historian. A more enlightened and unprejudiced age, when the errors of antiquity shall have lost their force, will behold his character in its native colours. He must then appear either in the light

* Mr. Payne's Rights of Man. † Sir R. Walpole.

of

of an ungrateful hypocrite, or submit to the alternative of being reckoned a man of contracted mind and of

In private life, he is not more amiable or exemplary. The ministerial system that he has laid down, pervades the internal economy of all his actions. He appears to imagine all true dignity to consist in a coldness and reserve, that banishes every suitor from his presence, nor does he ever suffer any case of distress, however just or pressing the claims may be, to divert him from the routine of office, or to extort the least relief or comfort from himself. Negligent and careless, as he is reported to be in his domestic concerns, there is not a single ray of generosity that has ever burst forth to animate the general frost of his character. Addicted to the excesses of wine, he still retains his natural sullenness and reserve, nor in the best moments of convivial mirth does he ever display a flexibility of disposition, or openness to conviction. Often as he has been obliged to submit to the decree of necessity, yet never has he had candour to acknowledge the weakness of any measure originating in himself, that brought on that necessity. With all his failings, his caution and plausibility are admirably calculated to entrap the confidence of the landed and monied interest, and he turns it to the best account; labouring with all his zeal, to inculcate a belief of the flourishing state of the national finances; enforcing every circumstance tending to confirm this belief, and concealing every truth, that would serve to diminish or destroy it. At present, there appears little chance of resignation or dismissal from the high eminence on which he stands; but let him retire or be dismissed, he never will be entitled to the thanks or gratitude of his country, and he will be regarded by posterity as a time-server and apostate.

SIR F. P——LE.

IN the portraits we have given, there did not appear a necessity of adopting any methodical arrangement, it being our principal care to maintain, in all its purity, the character of strict, impartial justice, nor in one instance, are we conscious of having departed from that rule. No extraordinary depth of learning, or extent of erudition, is required to give effect to a publication of this kind; its merits are of a different nature, nor can it be a serious objection, that the little Sir F. P——le follows so close on the heels of the great Mr. P——rt.

The insignificance of this Baronet would secure him from our animadversions, was it not, as we have remarked in other instances, that the viciousness of his mind gives celebrity, when his habits otherwise are calculated to leave him in obscurity.

We have known persons, miserably deficient in intellectual endowments, who, by an amiable temper, and goodness of heart, have effaced every unfavourable impression of a first appearance.

The first appearance of Sir F. P——le prepossesses against him, but we defy any prejudice in his favour, on a more intimate acquaintance, to refute the justice of the first impulse.

It occurs to us, in our observations on human life, that persons of real merit,—of intrinsic benevolence, and numberless other engaging qualities, are often neglected, and in a manner scouted from society, while a wretch of this description, whose very voice is revolting to delicate or susceptible feelings, is received with a certain degree of courtesy and respect. True it is, that they who thus accommodate themselves to such society, are generally persons of little discrimination or discernment.

The Baronet in question, delights in the lowest company—natural it is, that he should do so. When he can collect around him a troop of horse riders, to whom he can relate his knowledge of pedigrees, and his judgment at a country race, with all the curious, interesting anecdotes, that have fallen within his experience, elevated by

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the fumes of tobacco and ale, which necessarily yield additional splendor to his conversation; then he is in his own element—

Away with such——— it is an idle waste of time, when employed on such a subject.———

D-KE OF R——D.

IT is our pride to act with uniform consistency; never to be deluded by the voice or prejudice of others. This Nobleman, in the tide of public report, is unpopular; and judging from those who thus judge him, this unpopularity with us is his best praise.

The Duke of R——d has a firm and exalted mind; his unremitting, patriotic exertions, during the long process of the American war, were such as the utmost powers of panegyric are unequal to celebrate; nor will his speech in the House of Lords, where he unequivocally and nobly asserted the rights of men and America's independence, even at the moment when Chatham was struck with death, be ever forgotten.

The pretended desertion from his party, which has been so severely probed, and treated with so much pointed wit and asperity, is calculated to delude the ignorant, but can never operate on a clear, enlightened judgment. When the avowed friends and enemies of freedom united, it was time for him to separate from his former connections; and if his active sanguine mind has accepted an appointment, where there is scope for its exertion, it does not thence follow, that he approves the measures of government. Acting on his own judgment, and a consciousness of right, from superior abilities, to do so his decisions may not always be orthodox, but in our opinion, his plan for reforming parliament (however impracticable to narrow, incomprehensive minds it may appear) is the most liberal and effectual remedy to the evil that has been yet proposed.—That plan, to which he still adheres, ought ever to be an impenetrable shield against the in-

veteracy of malevolent reports, and undermine the calumny of those formerly acting with him, who, unable to corrupt, or seduce, neglect no occasion of defaming him.—That plan is too obnoxious to aristocracy, ever to be reduced to practice, under the *independent* administration of Mr. P—tt; but if there is a vice in the political character of the Duke of R——d, it is, that he submits to act in concert with the present minister.

If we in general approve the principles of this Nobleman, in his public line, he is equally admirable in his domestic regulations and œconomy. Liberality, without profusion, chearfulness and hospitality are the characteristics of good—d. An indulgent and affectionate brother; and attentive to every duty incumbent on him in a private station, it is impossible to conceive a person more beloved or respected within that sphere.

It becomes us therefore to reject the venom of calumnious report, which has been remarkably busy, in its exertions against the D-ke of R——d. We remember when he refused every solicitation the most anxiously pressed, and almost every hour repeated, from the Coalition, and hence all parties are irritated and incensed against him: but truth is not to be perverted, and whenever Mr. P—tt has sufficient ascendancy over a certain person, to gain his assent to what every man of honour and public virtue anticipates, the D-ke of R——d will be found the most able and zealous advocate of any system that appears likely to accomplish the patriotic purpose.

We are aware that our sentiments, respecting this Nobleman, militate against public opinion*; but we are neither the slaves of prejudice, or the dupes of error, and it seldom happens that the people know their best friends. It is the hour of trial that instructs and enlightens them; and should that period arrive during his life, the D-ke of R——d will then shine in his genuine, native colours.

* Let it be remembered however, that this opinion originates from those who could not wrap his principles and integrity to yield sanction to a measure he reprobated and detested, and which exerted the indignation of every independent mind in the kingdom;

Mr.

MR. H. B—B—Y.

IT is a just remark, that persons remarkable for any particular ingenious talent, are often, in other respects, stupid, plegmatic, and heavy. This gentleman's talent is well known, since every print shop exhibits specimens of it.—Port and porter, whatever encroachments the abuse of them may have made on his constitution, has not yet diminished the excellence of his art. His figure is bloated and disfigured by these excesses, and his senses are impaired, as he continually appears in a state of lethargy. All accomplished, however, as he is, he was selected as Gent—n Us—r, or M—r of the C—m—ies, to do the honours of the D—ss of Y—k; and if her R—l H—ss was not on her guard against the falsehood of first impressions, she must have conceived strange notions of the manners and address of an English gentleman, from the vulgar mean appearance of Mr. B—B—Y.

It is barbarous thus to drag a man out of his proper element, and wantonly expose him to public ridicule. The good sense of his brother should have interposed to prevent it.—Honest H—y would pass unnoticed at the Mount, where there are so many congenial souls; but to bring him forward as a fine gentleman, to hold the train of an accomplished P—ss, and to attract the satirical observations of a court, was inhuman.

Since his appointment, however, he certainly is become more attentive to his person, and smarter in his dress, but we would recommend rather more ease and freedom in his habiliments, as his present appearance threatens an explosion.

We imagine that it was through the interest of his brother, that he gained a situation in the D—e of Y—k's household, with a view perhaps of reclaiming him from his old inveterate habits; but if the beauty and persuasion of his w—e could not wean him from them, we fear that he will never be reclaimed by the refinements and example of the polite world, into which he has been thus late introduced. H—y has not yet passed his novitiate in this new college, and although he seems puffed up with too much self importance on his promotion, yet we apprehend

prehend that he will not have resolution to go through all the etiquette and fatiguing ceremonies of genteel life. We expect soon again to behold him resume his old station at the Mount; and, convinced of the vanity of all foreign luxury and magnificence, return with additional satisfaction to the homefelt delights of his original gun and water, and humble port.

L--L OF H--R--T--N.

IN this nobleman, there is much to praise and admire. He has withstood all the temptations of vice, and resisted the fatal tendency of a most dangerous and corrupt example. The scenes of dissipation and immorality peculiar to the higher circles of life, and in which his parents were particularly involved, made no bad impression on his youth, and he affords as striking an instance of domestic comfort and felicity, as they were of the reverse. All the duties of private life are performed in the most exemplary manner by L--d H--t--n. His resources of happiness consist in a wife and children, who are the objects of his tenderest solicitude and affection, nor is he in the least degree tainted by the prevailing vices of the age.

He attends in his military capacity with a meticulous attention to the discipline and morals of his regiment; and although bordering on the martinet, he is beloved and respected both by officers and men. During the war, he served in America with considerable eclat, to the detriment of a delicate constitution, and if we are not mistaken, was the officer who brought over dispatches containing an account of the surrender of the British forces at Saratoga, the ignominy of which, his friendship for the general, induced him to exert all his powers to palliate and conceal. Vain, however, were his efforts; the surrender of that army is a blot in the military character of the officer who commanded it, that no circumstance or length of time can ever efface.

Lord H--r--t--n is uncle to Lord B--m--e, and we doubt not, exerts his best endeavours to save him from the threatening

threatning storm. That young no—m—n, whom we have already slightly mentioned, notwithstanding his eccentricities, is not destitute of good qualities; he is generous, open, and sincere, but surrounded as he is, by the rapacious cormorants who daily feed on his bounty, and seduce him to a perseverance in those excesses, which must eventually terminate in his ruin—he allows himself no time for reflection; but when the fatal moment arrives, he will find these insatiate leeches who so long preyed upon him, and precipitated his fall, the very first to arraign that intemperance and profusion, which they had been so anxious to promote and encourage. They will gradually abandon him, and he will find himself universally deserted, standing in one vast solitude. He will then become another Timon; a hater of his own species, and curse that ungrateful world, on which he had solely built all his hopes and felicity.

To avoid this terrible alternative, if not too late, he must immediately adopt some moderate, rational, and prudent plan, which the reliques of his fortune will enable him to support; and if this pamphlet should fall into his hands, we earnestly wish him to consider our advice and suggestions, as coming from one who is his sincere well-wisher and his friend.

We have been led into this digression from the purest motives, and if our counsels should produce a salutary effect, the labour will be amply rewarded.

Little remains to be said of Lord H-r-t-n. We believe him to have been of late in the frequent habit of visits at the R——l residence in W-f-r, but his virtues are not calculated to make impression in that quarter. He was desirous to succeed Lord O——d as Ranger of the Parks: his pretensions, however, were disregarded, in order to reward the *extraordinary merit* of Lord G——lle, the relation of Mr. P--t, who previous thereto, (poor man) enjoyed none of the favours and good things of Government.

Lord H—r—t—n, nevertheless, does not appear disappointed, and still manifests an attachment and predilection for the court,

SIR

SIR C. B.—PF—DE.

THE injustice and cruelty of the Grand Monde is forcibly illustrated in the general neglect this gentleman has experienced. During the reign of his independence and prosperity, his convivial talents and happy cheerful temper were ever applauded and admired, and his unshaken attachment to the party, which proved fatal to him, in the loss of his election at E—r, antecedent to that period, drew down shouts of applause. In a word, generally considered, he was *the best, the finest fellow living*. But mark the sad reverse! No sooner had his friendly generous disposition, which on all occasions he was happy and proud to indulge, produced a fatal revolution in his affairs, and he appeared involved in trouble, and distress, than the tune was immediately altered. The poor fellow was then no person's enemy but his own—it could not be otherwise—it was long foreseen, that his thoughtless disposition would end, where it did—it could answer no purpose, to afford any temporary relief, as would only be the means of yielding him an opportunity of indulging his old habits, and he would soon be plunged in the same difficulties again.

Such are the Protean sentiments of men of fashion, and such the language applied to this unfortunate gentleman. Poor fellow! he flattered himself to the last: he little dreamt that amongst his numerous acquaintance, he had not *one friend*; nor did he discover his error, till, alas! he had occasion for one.

Then indeed, the mask was at once withdrawn, and he, whose company had been so ardently sought after, was left to pine in solitude and oblivion.

Had Sir C. B.—de been an apostate from his friendship, or from his principles, had he not uniformly in parliament, voted with the opposition, he would at this moment have been one of the representatives of the city of E—r; but his steady attachment to those he regarded as his friends, proved his ruin.

Others of far less merit, but of more weight in the political scale, and not requiring the same protection, have been taken up by the party, and elected into parliament through

through their influence, and thus, the most selfish principles have superseded the obligation of gratitude and friendship.

Let us however recommend to our friend, not to abandon himself to despair. The disappointment and ingratitude he has felt, have been equally proved by others. His happy temper is framed to contend against adversity, and we trust, eventually will triumph over it.

Should he ever again know a favourable change in his affairs, the smiles of the world will once more beam in bright effusion round him; but experience will serve as an eternal caution against their fallacy and deception.

Mr. T. OLOWY.

How wretched is the poor man who builds on Princes' favours!

THE subject of this chapter once stood high in the good graces of the Duke of W—s, and his treacherous talents, however bordering on buffoonery and grimace, seemed calculated to insure a continuance of them. Inseparable, and united in friendship as they appeared to be, it is reported they have been dissolved by an occurrence, which although it may be thought imprudent, certainly is not dishonourable to the feelings of Mr. O—ly.

The public are well acquainted with the transaction that some years ago intervened, to disturb the tranquility and happiness of this respectable family, which rendered a sudden departure from the kingdom, in the person concerned, indispensably necessary.—After a considerable absence, his relations had been fondly deceived into a belief, which ended, as it ought to do, in vexation and disappointment. They conceived it *possible*, that the peroxists of public indignation, had vented themselves, and that the sanction of his R—l H—fs, who certainly was quite ignorant of the stigma, under which the gentleman in question laboured, might restore their relation

* Shakespeare.

once

once more to his country and society. Under such delusion, they invited his return, and at the desire of T—m—y, the P—e gave a grand dinner, and the unhappy stranger, on whom all affability and politeness were profusely lavished, was seated on his right hand.—During the repast, an extraordinary coldness and reserve were visible; and, very contrary to the usual custom, at its conclusion, all the guests immediately retired. His R—l H—ss was wholly at a loss to account for this singular conduct in his friends, and took the earliest occasion, the next day, of enquiring from Lord B—c—p the motives of it; when the mystery was once unravelled, and poor T—m—y has never since resumed his situation at C——n H—e. ~~signs of noisome bad vessels even now~~
It is impossible to concur more heartily than we do, in abhorrence of the vice, however much we may compassionate the miserable victim to it; but, in the present instance, it would have been no derogation from his R—l H—ss's liberality and indulgence, if, after a gentle reprimand, he had manifested less severity against the sentiments of brotherly affection.

Mr. O—l—w, notwithstanding, displays a heart at ease, and (perhaps from a consciousness of pure intentions,) betrays no tokens of disappointment. His phaeton and ponies seem ever uppermost in his thoughts, and while in enjoyment of them, it does not appear that even a P—e's frowns can ruffle the serenity of his temper.

This gentleman has been twice married, and spite of outward appearance, his good temper, and oddities, which are by no means unpleasant, although perhaps rather too highly seasoned for the exquisite delicacy of some fastidious female palates, procured him two good *plentiful* wives. He was deserving of them, for he behaves well, and is in every respect an honest, good humoured, and honourable man.

Such qualities he inherits from his father, whom as an arrant courtier, we detest; but as a man in social life, we admire and love him, as a person of the strictest honour and integrity; the best, the most indulgent of fathers; of unquestionable probity and liberality in all his private dealings.

EARL OF C—T—T—b.

S—V—R—NS have been uniformly distinguished for their happy selection of favourites, and hence we are to account for the exalted rank this N—b—n holds in the favour of our discerning C—t. His Lordship's excellence consists in a variety of talents. He provides food for laughter to the merry facetious humour of the K—g, and procures infallible corn-plasters for the Q—n; and we hear that a new appointment is to be created for him,—Chiropodist to her M—y.

We have already had occasion to remark on the amazing powers of sympathy. *Amor justitiae* is no less a ruling principle in the R—I B—t than in that of his Lordship. In both, it holds such sovereign sway, that the feeble claims of M—y are scarcely audible. No tender plea is admitted to turn the course of justice, stern, inexorable justice. Dr. D—d fell a victim to this firm, unshaken virtue in his friend and pupil; and the first act of executive power performed after a recovery from the most dreadful illness, was sentence of death on numberless unhappy wretches, who had been waiting many, many months, under all the sensations of anxiety and hope, and who had expended their last farthing to illuminate their darksome cells on the joyful news: but, alas! no joy for them. All their flattering prospects were at once converted into misery and despair: the dreadful warrant of death came down: no respite! no mitigation! no mercy! Even the flinty heart of gaolers was dissolved at the scene which ensued, from the effects of rage and disappointment. The stern behest of law was rigorously executed. M—y was not allowed to temper j—ce, which, in all cases, it was the barbarous policy, must be indiscriminately administered: such was the principle fatal to them. The murderer, and the youth, who, from bad and neglected habits, had brought himself to a state of penury and want, and had stolen perhaps what was necessary to support existence, underwent the like dreadful fate. No distinction of crime, no difference of punishment. If compassion had been resident in the r—I b—st, this surely was an occasion to bring it forth into action.—

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The miserable insolvent debtor, whose lot is scarcely less pitiable, who expected the prison gates to leap from off their hinges, to restore him to the best of heavens gifts, immortal liberty! in case of the much hoped for, although despaired of event. His expectations, alas! were equally disappointed. The brightest jewel in the c—n was dim and obscure. No acts of s—n munificence were displayed, to gratify the anxious hopes that had been raised. No hospital enriched—no hapless, captive debtor, (some industrious tradesman perhaps) burthened with a numerous family, whose misfortunes had been wholly brought on by a generous credulity, enlarged,—the prison gates still cleaved to their hinges,—the r—I coffers did not disgorge one atom of the enormous load's they contained. In lieu of fulfilling these dear expectations, which would have best evinced the genuine effusions of piety and beneficence, the public were amused with a solemn m—k—ry of religious worship, and a proud, ostentatious procession through the principal streets of this c.ty. Fasts and festivals were proclaimed and celebrated; every species of riot and dissipation encouraged; whereby the people were kept in a state of fermentation and uproar during several weeks. Feux de joie, and the most brilliant, expensive, nocturnal illuminations, at the cost of courtly sycophants, and the genius of invention racked, to supply the artificial wants of the most exquisite luxury. The ambassadors of foreign princes strove in emulation with each other, in a gorgeous display of splendid magnificence, and every power of fancy was ransacked on the occasion. But all was false and hollow; and it would be blasphemous to suppose, that one deed of real charity, would not have been more acceptable to a just and merciful Deity, than all this vain-glorious parade of pomp and ostentation; but alas! into what records are we to search for a single instance of pure unaffected gratitude? Mercy is the first, the brightest attribute of prerogative, and if neglected in an hour like this, the virtue may fairly be supposed dead in the heart.

Was the impression lost of the fascinating actress*, when, with irresistible eloquence she recites the glowing language of our heavenborn-poet, the panegyric on

* Mrs. Siddons.

Mercy?

Mercy?—“ It becomes the throned monarch better than
“ his crown, and earthly power does then shew likest
“ gods, when mercy seasons justice.” —

We have been led involuntarily into these reflections, and shall now proceed to offer a few further illustrations relative to this ornament of n—b—ty.

If he does not inherit the wit and urbanity of his ancestor, he possesses a species of *broader* humour, more congenial with the taste and pleasant fancy of his r—I m—t—r. His presence never fails to enliven the shades of W—f—r, and the chace becomes languid and uninteresting, unless animated by the charms of his L——p’s conversation. Nor is he often truant from the sport.

It would be a flagrant injustice to the sagacity and penetration of a wise, discerning m—ch, to suppose him blind to the universal merit of this distinguished character. As his M——y had wisdom to discover, so had he candour and liberality to reward it. Hence, he was once appointed to fill a splendid embassy at the c—t of M—d; but although he regularly received the salary, and all the deuceurs annexed to the appointment, yet he was so fascinated by the beauty and accomplishments of a celebrated *youthful* French C—t—n*, equally admired and beloved in England as in France, that he never proceeded further than Paris. On her, he fondly and generously lavished the sums drawn from that embassy, which he was every way so transcendently calculated to dignify and adorn. Often have we beheld him in amourous tête-à-tête, shewing off those native graces, so strongly enforced by his predecessor, in a *loge grillée* at the opera; where, had Rowlandson or Bunbury been present, their talents would have had the finest subject to work upon, and we might then have had a proper companion to the tête-à-tête which has been already so ingeniously sketched, of the E—I of D—y and Miss F——n.

In the higher circles of fashion, the domestic duties are in a great degree neglected; hence, it was no matter of wonder to behold L—dy C—d, in an opposite box, witnessing with indifference the enthusiasm and transports of her faithless L—d; but as his L——p’s friend and patron

* Mad—selle Du T——é, at that time was in her forty-third year.

affords

affords in his own person, such a transcendent example of conjugal fidelity, we flatter ourselves that it will operate to prevent any future wandering, and insure to her L——dy—p the *full* monopoly of such an inestimable treasure.

We earnestly recommend to his Lordship a diligent attention, to the important charge intrusted to him; and flatter ourselves that his consummate skill will prevent the public, who of late appear to enjoy such hearty, solid satisfaction from the r—l presence, being ever again disappointed by her M——ty, in consequence of any lameness from her corns.

CONCLUSION.

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We have at length waded through all the filth of this Augean Stable, and during our progress, it is a melancholy reflection, how few exceptions of praise have occurred.—We have uniformly prided ourselves on the strictest impartiality, and although its title may not announce it, yet the publication, even by those, whose bitterest enmity it may excite, must be allowed to inculcate a moral tendency,—in exposing the absurdity and injustice of paying homage to those who are virtually the most undeserving, and of suffering such a vile example, to operate to the detriment of real virtue and intrinsic excellence.

Under the sanction of that tyrant custom, the most calamitous abuses are consecrated, and we have invariably exerted our best abilities, to undermine a system, so fatal to the peace and general happiness of the world. All the arguments that have been advanced, or that it is possible to advance against innovation, originate in the grossest error and prejudice. If it had not been for this happy spirit of innovation, what would be the state of mechanics, mathematics, geography, astronomy, and all the useful arts and sciences, tending to the instruction and felicity of mankind at this day? Are governments, which carry error and misery on the face of them, capable of less improvement, or are politics the only science to be neglected? If we enquire, who are the staunch advocates of this anti-innovation doctrine, it will be found that they are persons whose best stake is at issue, or if they keep concealed behind the curtain, they who appear in front, are agents dependent on them. The rulers themselves are contented with pronouncing high sounding encomiums on the constitution, but if pressed to argument, they make a retreat, and do no more than repeat the assertion. Assertion and argument may be as different from each other, as truth and falsehood. With equal consistency, I might proclaim Sir Isaac Newton the most arrant blockhead that ever existed, and if urged for any reasons, might get off with equal eclat, by replying in the same manner. With concern, we have of late beheld

behind the leaders of both parties in this country, employing the same means to uphold a system that reason and humanity explode, and which experience has brought into danger. They concur in this one single point, but do not affix the shadow of reason, whereon to rest their panegyrie. To argue from a comparative state of nations at a particular period, is fallacious in the extreme; but even, attended with such flattering circumstances, are not the most crying evils every where staring us in the face under this most boasted government? Mr. P——t and his friends, having got possession of the loaves and fishes, naturally are desirous to preserve the monopoly, and no method seems more feasible for their purpose, than having once gained an empire over the understandings of men, to perpetuate that empire, by an imposition on their credulity—but the true and only reason for not attempting a reform in the state of things, is that the interest of corruption requires them to remain as they are. Hence, as we have before observed on this topic, all parties now seem to agree; they who possessing the good things, being afraid to risque the least alteration that might affect their possession, and the candidates of future expectation, dreading the utter extinction of these good things, which they still look up to, with hope and avidity,

It was with real concern that on the first day of this session of parliament, we heard Mr. F—x pronounce the most languid, irrelevant, and unmeaning speech that he ever uttered.

Different from the style he adopted last year, all his expressions regarding liberty were guarded by a timidity and caution which induces a suspicion that he is under the direction of some aristocratic influence. The successor to the estates and property of the mild and virtuous R——m is as proud and haughty a N——n as the world can produce. Mr. F—x is reported to be not in affluent circumstances, but a firm and erect mind, poverty should animate, rather than depress, and it becomes a spirit like his, to scorn dependence, and to strike out a sphere of action, where he may draw all the virtue and talents in the nation to his aid.

The contention seems to be in all occasions a base struggle for power. The only meritorious act we remember issuing from the c——n, is, where it lately recommended

mended a repeal of certain taxes. Yet from an affected jealousy, far fetched and inconsiderate, the great leaders of opposition condemn it, instead of exerting their whole powers, to extend the principle further. It is this selfish spirit which renders the great body of the people under the present system indifferent as to the individuals, in whom the reins of government are vested. They perceive that the plan is uniform and regularly conducted; therefore they do not interest themselves in such matters; and it is only on a sense and conviction of their own interest and security, when satisfied with the perfidy and selfishness of both parties, that they will rouse and assert themselves. Let us hope the enlightened period is not far distant.

It is necessary, on particular occasions, for ministers to affect popularity, in order to keep pace with, or eclipse the exertions of their rivals. But if really sincere, why does not Mr. Pitt marshal his ministerial phalanx in almost the only case where he neglects it; and where, the influence of such authority is to be endured, and issue forth the royal fiat, in order to procure an abolition of that detestable traffick in human flesh, the Slave Trade,—a commerce, that degrades humanity far beneath the brute. Except those, whom interest, or the influence of interested men have rendered callous to the most painful sufferings of their fellow creatures, there is but one opinion, and one wish on the subject. It would be a libel on humanity to suppose the contrary. They who are interested to keep up a continuance of this execrable traffick on the coast of Africa, artfully explain the abolition of that trade, as implying the emancipation of the negroes in the British West-India islands also, (and better would it be, were the system universal;) but no such thing has been ever hitherto proposed by those who have stood forth the most zealous advocates of the rights of nature, in favour of those oppressed tortured wretches. They only wish for an effectual and immediate stop to the importation of any slaves into our West-India islands. That done, self-interest and the occasional regulations of a wise and humane legislature, would soon make the situation of the present slaves cease to be a disgrace to the British name and character.

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The next plea urged by these patrons of, or sharers in this barbarity, is, that our plantations could not be cultivated without a constant supply from Africa; but it has been indisputably proved, that, in all the islands, one year with another, the births equal, if not exceed the deaths amongst this miserable, suffering race. How much greater therefore would the population be, if they were treated with less severity, and a promiscuous intercourse between the sexes prevented, by the united influence of religion and civil polity. Besides, the planters have been eagerly purchasing as many slaves as possible, since the commencement of these worthy exertions in the cause of humanity. Thus overstocked, in many places, they could feel no immediate, nor even distant inconvenience from the abolition, if they would condescend to shew even common attention and mercy to their present slaves. If they will not, let them meet the punishment due to them, both here, and hereafter.

We could proceed further in this digression, but the limits of our publication will not allow it.

It is really disgusting, even shocking to susceptible minds, that the people should be for ever insulted with encomiums on the excellency of this C—:—:n while no one effectual plan is devised or proposed for relief of the numberless wretched sufferers of various descriptions, who lie bleeding in anguish, owing to the vices springing from it. Is the nature of Englishmen more vicious and depraved than that of the inhabitants of other countries, that the number of capital executions,—of convicts and confined debtors in this little island, far exceed that which is to be found through the whole continent of Europe? It would be no less irrational than illiberal to suppose it. The defect therefore evidently exists in the laws; and barbarous must it ever appear, yearly to execute or torture, by a banishment worse than death, such an incredible number of wretches, without an effort on the part of government to cure, or even palliate the evil.—It is the duty, and ought to be the principle of a great minister, to extend his views far beyond his own miserable system of finance;—and when Mr. P—tt, enveloped in all the sullen pride and dignity of office, in pompous phrases, again proclaims that wealth and prosperity for which the nation is indebted to him, let him,

as some draw-back on that pride and vain-glory, with which he is elated, take a comprehensive and general survey of things; let him explain the contents of that gazette, which is published twice a week, in a manner as it were under his own direction; he will thence discover, an evidence of all this boasted splendor and prosperity, rather the converse of what he wishes to establish—that the number of bankrupts far exceeds that of any former period.—Let him explore the condition of our gaols;—he will find the full complement of miserable convicts and imprisoned debtors. Let him traverse the rounds of this metropolis, and of the country at large, he will perceive that the sum of poverty *, and vice, its constant attendant, is not diminished, and that the provisions of life are at such a price, as wholly precludes the poorer class from enjoyment of them; and without encroaching further on his time and labours, let him then devote some portion of them to the remedy of these glaring evils, before he again indulges in verbose, high sounding panegyrics on the unrivalled excellence of a c----t---n, which not only tolerates, but even encourages them.

It is neither expected nor required from Mr. P—tt, to deliver essays on civil government. Every man's own reason and conviction is a more faithful arbiter in this case than he, or any minister that has gone before him. The fact is this, every government must be constitutionally bad, that is supported by, or countenances corruption. Let him therefore look back to past times, or consult the history of his own administration in particular, and then let him answer if this boasted government is not vitiated by similar means. But if the British constitution be fundamentally good, why is the nation precluded from the full benefits of it. Let the army and navy be reduced to their proper legal establishment, to an establishment founded on just principles; and, as to the first step preparatory to the annihilation of corruption, restore integrity and purity to parliaments; shorten their duration; and render to every man, not disqualified by nature or by

* Let it be remembered also, to the honour of the English government, that in a nation, not containing more than seven millions of people, two millions sterling are far inadequate for the poor of that country.

crime,

crime, the right of voting for his representative; then the system may be meliorated,—wars abolished,—no more the real interests of the people be sacrificed to the ideal honour and dignity of crowns, nor fresh burthens imposed, merely to increase the revenue, and to enslave themselves.

Mr. F—x we believe sincere in his endeavours to fix some partial limits to the excessive influence of the c——n; but the influence and corruption of aristocracy is no less dangerous; and he appears far less sensible to the danger. Mr. P—tt may extol in high flown strains, the vast benefits arising from the immense overgrown opulence of the aristocratic landholder; but if he were less sparing of his eloquence, and more liberal in his arguments, it would redound more to conviction. Let him point out these benefits, and alledge one satisfactory reason, why this unnatural opulence should not receive an additional and proportionate increase of taxation, as a relief to the intolerable burthens that press on the mass of the people. When he has verified his positions by argument, he will be entitled to attention and respect: till then, his assertions are mere declamation, and should be scouted accordingly. In proportion as reason and philosophy are extending their empire over the world, the rulers of nations are straining every nerve to check their progress, and destroy the effects. The genius of liberty, however, is roused, and aided by such powerful succours, victory must eventually ensue. The human faculties have been long under the dominion of a barbarous Gothic ignorance. The lights of knowledge begin to dissipate the gloom, and a successful example will convince all nations of the abuses that have been practised on them. If the American revolution operated as an example upon France, surely it is natural to imagine, from her vicinity, that the French revolution will operate at least with equal effect upon us. The people will soon revolt against the influence of corruption, and extirpate the infamous doctrine, of the many been sacrificed, to swell the pride, and pamper the luxury of a few.—All things have hitherto hung on the chain of r---l or aristocratic influence, destitute of their invigorating rays, genius and merit languish and die in obscurity.—Under their protection, ignorance and infamy flourish.

No redress however can be expected, till the enormous influence of these two branches is reduced. The people therefore must finally judge and act for themselves. The ways of knowledge begin to prevail. Mr. Locke observes, "that there remains inherent in the people, a supreme power to remove or alter the legislature, whenever they find the legislative act contrary to the trust reposed in them, for when such a trust is abused, it is thereby forfeited, and devolves to those who gave it." This is the true constitutional language of Englishmen; it is the language of liberty; it is the organ of nature; Mr. Blackstone * calls it the idea of a very noble mind, but is pleased to style it *merely theoretical*.

What is the present practice?

A man like Gibbon, whose writings have exalted the glory of his country, and whose great literary fame has reached the utmost extremities of the civilized world, is necessitated to live (an exile as it were) in a foreign clime, in obscurity and distress, while such a number of locusts, *nati consumere fruges*, are preying on its vitals, supported by this profligate dependence. Surely, such perversion of national property proves the insensibility and degeneracy of the government that encourages it.

Mr. T. St—le, an humble protégé of the D—ke of R——, is a privy counsellor, and J—t p—y m—t—r of the forces, while Mr. Gibbon is left to cultivate philosophy and science at Lausanne, without a protector or a friend. This infamous neglect is not confined to the present administration. When the D—ke of M—l—t—r went ambassador to Paris, Mr. Gibbon was desirous to attend him as secretary, but at that time likewise, his merits were superceded by the superior claim and pretensions of Mr. A—t—y S—r—r, to whom the appointment was granted, Mr. S—r—r had the sanction of Lord C—l—les recommendation; Mr. G—b—n had only his own merit to recommend him. The philosopher however, has this advantage: in all countries, his vast comprehensive mind creates a field of resources; while the pitiful vernacular genius of a m—k—y like S—r—r, or a d—ce like St—le, is rooted to its own native soil, nor can exist beyond it.

* Mr B. was at this time he wrote his commentaries solicitor to the Q—n.

The author feels conscious of another merit.—He has waged war generally with those of an exalted condition in life:—never with persons in adversity, or under misfortune. His motto is invariable: *Parcere subjectis, et debellare superbos.* He has uniformly written from knowledge and conviction, neither warped by partiality or dislike. In his political digressions, he has spoken freely, as it appears to him, a man ought to think, and to speak. If the fundamental principles of the B——sh C——n be good, it has not withstood the depredations of time. Numberless evils have crept in and deformed its beauty. Who is hardy enough to deny the vexatious delay of legal processes, and the unnecessary infamous extortion attending them, whereby the lawyers amass fortunes, and their unhappy clients are often ruined? Who will deny the existence of numberless useless expensive sinecures, whereby the field of corruption is enlarged—the burthens of the people increased, and vice and profligacy encouraged.—

The mockery of parliamentary representation is too notorious to dwell on, notwithstanding the jesuitical sophistry of those who are interested to keep up the juggle. The influence of the crown is preserved only to its present extent, by an annual increase of taxation*, whereby the spirit of the people is depressed, and prepared to endure fresh burthens. Our penal laws, as actually administered, are odious, and tyrannical, and have no relation whatever, with the true spirit of a liberal government. The laws between debtor and creditor in particular, are equally injurious to each party, and profitable only to the most villainous part of the community †, who extort money from the miseries of the one, and the credulity of the other.

Our criminal laws are too indiscriminate and sanguinary. The murderer, and the wretch, who, prompted by want, and unrestrained by the precepts of example or education, destitute of the benefit of either, commits a

* It is worthy to be remarked, if it was not for the burthen of taxes which exist in this country, that originate in the vicious construction, or at least in the deviation from the first principles of our constitution, every article of life would be seventy per cent. cheaper, and the human assailant would avoid those spectacles, that daily affect his sensibility.

† The lowest class of pettifogging attorneys,

theft to support existence, receive an equal punishment. All these abuses are tolerated. Why?—merely to avoid the risk of innovation!

Is such language to be endured at this boasted period of enlightened knowledge, the end of the 18th century? Is the same system for ever to prevail, and the wretched multitude to be ever dragged in the chains of ignorance and servitude, by the chicanery and presumptuous arrogance of those who have usurped dominion over them? But when is this nation to expect redress, when even opposite parties concur in augmenting its difficulties? Without derogating from the respect and veneration due to r—t—y, it may rationally be demanded, at a time, when the people are taxed at the rate of seventeen shillings in the pound, if there is not a kind of indelicacy and cruelty in requiring an additional establishment for any part of the r—I family, while the f—v—n coffers are asserted to contain wealth to the amount of nine or ten million. Every gentleman pays his own physician, but if, in gratitude for the manifold blessings derived from the present r—m, the r—I doctor was paid by the nation, yet there can be no reason, why under every circumstance, it should make additional provision for the r—I children, when the p—r—ts are fully competent and able to provide the most splendid establishment for them.

Party attachments govern men; and the loaves and fishes are the objects of contention. Policy had struck out a kind of collision in the r—I f—m—ly, whereby government in reality was strengthened; as administration and opposition became equally attached to its different branches; and the distinguished patriot, even the man of the people, took the earliest occasion of publicly pledging himself, whenever the question should be agitated, that he would yield his zealous support to any proposition for the most extensive provision. The patriots at the beginning of this century, were men of a very different description: Sir John St. Aubyn and Mr. Slippen were made of sterner stuff. It was not the interest or fear of princes that would ever have seduced them to compromise the interests of their countrymen. They would have probed the thing more deeply, and pointed out, with perspicuity, where all circumstances consider-

ed, the burthen of maintaining this unnecessary expence and ostentation ought to fall.

To dwell on these abuses, and the attempts that are making to perpetuate them, is really painful to a mind, not altogether void of sensibility. The Author has endeavoured to point them out in plain but forcible terms. He is conscious of his own numberless errors, and happy beyond measure should he esteem himself, if through the channel of his writings, he could make some attone-
ment for them, by enforcing the practice of liberality, virtue, and truth in others.

THE END.

4112 1962-1963 CHARTS

A circular stamp from the British Museum. The outer ring contains the text "BRITISH MUSEUM". In the center is a heraldic shield featuring a cross with four lions at the ends. Below the shield, the number "30" is on the left and "61" is on the right.

